The National Future Farmer

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The National
Future Farmer
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December-January, 1986-87
Volume 35 Number 2 ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

To get some understanding of the scope of FFA, a person should attend the National FFA Convention. Even then, what you see is only the tip of the iceberg. There are so many events going on in so many different places, it boggles the mind to try to comprehend it all.

The national and state staffs working together, the people of Kansas City who make the convention a year-long project, the many advisors and FFA members who participate, the people from business and industry who help—so many it's hard to name them all.

It's the largest student meeting in the world and perhaps one of the most unusual. While it is easy to think that what goes on in Kansas City is of short duration, nothing could be farther from the truth. Much of the work for the national awards presented at the convention started years before with much competition along the way.

But for all othe great things it is, the National FFA Convention is but a reflection of what goes on at the state and local level of FFA. It is at the local level that students enroll in vocational agriculture, become active in the FFA, and participate in educational programs that lead to careers in agriculture, or related occupations.

In our last issue, we discussed the kind of education needed for the year 2000:

". . . School systems must stress basic reading, writing and arithmetic and the development of problem solving, communicating, and teamwork skills. Moreover, they must develop programs that encourage youth to stay in school . . ."

Sound like vocational agriculture and FFA? That is what was on parade in Kansas City November 13-15, at the National FFA Convention. Education in action. You can read five pages of highlights in this issue on pages 14-18.

Wilson Carnes

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Those thin plastic disks are oh, so powerful.

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The Cover: *Cover Photo by Andrew Markwart*
Maintaining a healthy wildlife habitat and improving the timber stand while making a profit is the goal of 21-year-old Neil Mooers, of Strafford, New Hampshire. Neil is seen here cutting a red pine into sections he sells to a local timber company. His story, "He Won't Sell The Forest For His Trees," can be found on page 22.

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News in Brief

Recruitment Package Available

FFA chapters have been receiving information about the new Agricultural Career Recruitment Program since November. The program, sponsored by Monsanto, will provide promotional materials to the first 2,000 chapters that call a special toll-free "hotline" to order the kits. The materials include free career brochures, free loan of the film "Be All You Can Dream" and an idea booklet with suggestions and materials for designing a recruitment program aimed at incoming high school freshmen.

New FFA Film

A new 10-minute film that features the preparation of a pizza will be available for FFA members to use during their Food For America presentations to elementary students. The film will show the variety of ingredients needed to make a pizza and will trace the food system to the origin of those food products. The film will be available in the fall of 1987. It is sponsored by Kraft, Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Supply Service Manager Honored



On October 16, Paul Kidd, assistant director of the FFA Supply Service, was honored at a ceremony of appreciation at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, for his 32 years of service to the FFA organization.

Symbolizing Mr. Kidd's work for two generations of FFA members, Larry Case, national FFA advisor, displayed two family FFA jackets; his own Stet, Missouri, jacket purchased in 1959, and his 17-year-old son Jeff's new jacket labeled, "President, George Washington Federation, Virginia"—both orders were handled by Mr. Kidd. Following the advice of his physician, Mr. Kidd is taking an extended leave of absence. Mr. Kidd is pictured with his wife, Betty, during the ceremony.

Block Visits FFA Center



Former Secretary of Agriculture John Block and several members of his staff from the National-American Wholesale Grocers' Association (NAWGA) met with FFA officials at the National FFA Center, October 29, to discuss the BRIDGE scholarship program for rural disabled FFA members. (See related story on page 23.) Block is president of NAWGA and a member of the selection committee for BRIDGE. Above, Mr. Block views his FFA jacket displayed in the National FFA Hall of Achievement.

Monsanto to Donate Television PSAs

Two television public service announcements (PSAs) have been produced by Monsanto Agricultural Products Company about FFA. Monsanto will air them in ten midwestern states during December using purchased commercial airtime. They will then give the PSAs to FFA for inclusion in its 1987 PSA campaign, which is sponsored by Deere and Company.

Pitzer Named President of Ag Editors

Jack Pitzer, senior editor of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine, was elected president of the American Agricultural Editors Association, October 28, during their annual fall conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The association includes members from state, national and specialty agriculture magazines throughout the U.S. who meet to improve journalistic skills and analyze their press coverage of the agriculture industry. Mr. Pitzer will serve as president until October, 1987. He has been on the *FUTURE FARMER* staff for 20 years.

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CODY SNYDER
Bull Riding

MEL COLEMAN
Saddle Bronc

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The Mailbag

Preparing for the Future

In the article "Jobs Expected for Ag Graduates" (October-November, 1986,) it was said that "So many people have left agriculture that we're down to a qualified handful for a big industry." I think people think agriculture is simple, but it's not. Our Appling County FFA Chapter and our advisors are preparing us for the real world.

Larry Mosley
Baxley, Georgia

Computer Use

As a proud FFA member, I would like to thank you for the article "Excelling with Computers in Agriculture" in the October-November issue. We have a computer in our ag shop and our teacher uses it all the time to make out tests. We also use it. I hope you will have more articles about computers.

Kevin Hall
Allison, Texas

***The National FUTURE FARMER* tries to keep our readers informed about the latest in technology. See the article about the up-to-date software on page 8.—Ed.**

Reporter Challenge

As the Alex FFA Chapter reporter, sometimes I find it very challenging to compile news articles that will fill the needs of all newspapers and publications. *The National FUTURE FARMER* has always been helpful and understanding in the publishing of articles concerning the Alex FFA.

Callie Thurston
Alex, Oklahoma

Banquet Scene Winner

Thank you very much for the hat I received as a winner in the banquet reporting contest.

Elaine Conner
Oldwick, New Jersey

Sure about Vo-ag

I plan to take vocational agriculture for my first three years in school. I cannot take it my fourth year because I want to have four years of math, science, English, etc. so I can receive an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. You can be sure I'm taking the first three years and I'll work my fullest in those years.

Marty Oliver
Peaster, Texas

Community Work

We are 52 members strong and we all live in farming communites and are exposed to farming every day. Most of the people are elderly and rely on the younger generation to do most of the work in the community.

Our BOAC project, North Harrison Community Fair, has turned into an annual event. In our chapter, we all work together and each member makes suggestions and works to the best of their ability. I am one member happy to be in FFA. It teaches me what I need to know later on in life.

Brian Thomas
Eagleville, Missouri

Don't Give Up

I am writing in response to the article entitled "David Marrison Fights Back" in the October-November issue.

Every year I see so many kids give up on the FFA. Kids that raise animals for the fair and for some reason their projects don't make it. They give up on the project for good. They may run for an office and not get it and quit for good. I only wish there were more David Marrisons in FFA. David is one of the reasons there is an FFA.

Dawn Hardee
Sarasota, Florida

Joke Objection

I wish to find fault with a joke you had in the October-November, 1986, issue of the magazine.

My son receives the magazine and as I was thumbing through it, I came across the Joke Page. I did take offense on the one about the truck driver speeding away from the cop and the punch line was "The trucker said, 'Last week a cop stopped me and stole my wife and I thought you were bringing her back.'"

I believe with the high divorce rate, subtle messages like the one given in this joke don't help. Granted, I realize it doesn't cause or cure the problem, it does plant negative messages in impressionable minds.

I felt it was out of line and not productive to the wholesome atmosphere FFA is trying to promote.

Janet Malo
Hancock, Minnesota

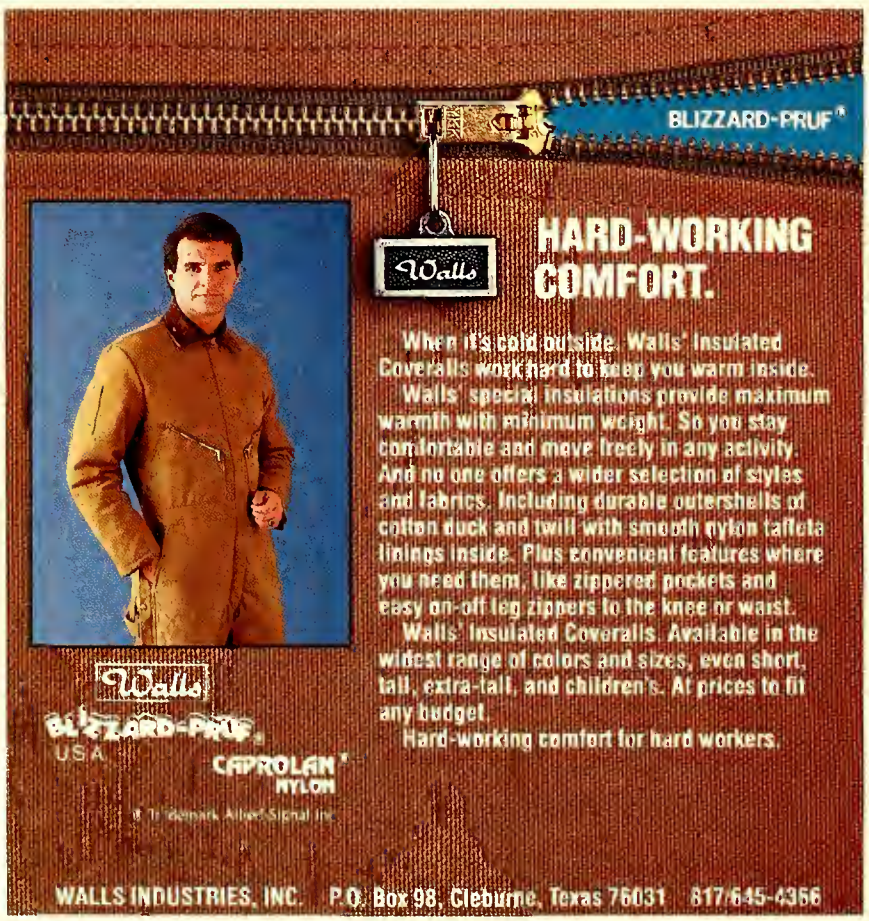
We do not mean to offend any of our readers. Humor, like beauty, is in the eyes of the beholder.—Ed.

Former Member

I graduated from Yreka High School last year, but would still like to receive *The National FUTURE FARMER*. I was a member of the FFA for three years and thoroughly enjoyed the magazine.

Chevell Shepherd
Grenada, California

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.


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Looking Ahead

China Buys Grain

The People's Republic of China has bought 1.18 million bushels of U.S. corn, the first such purchase in over two years, according to the U.S. Feed Grains Council (USFGC). China has been a net exporter of corn over the past several years.

However, there has been a great shortage of feed grains in many parts of the country. Because of geographical barriers, China adopted an export policy rather than transporting the feed grains cross-country to other regions. The deficit created by this policy resulted in an opportunity for USFGC to pressure Chinese officials to "buy now" while U.S. prices are competitive.

The Fence That Bends



A fence that appears to be rigid as a board, but flexes 6 to 12 inches on impact, has been developed by Centaur Fencing Systems, Inc. The fence is manufactured by encasing three high-tension wires in a solid polymer (much like the material you find on new car bumpers). It has the look of the traditional four rail fence, but besides the safety factor of no splintering, the company claims it never needs painting and is virtually maintenance free.

OJ gets Calcium Boost

An orange juice has been developed by The Procter & Gamble Company that is enriched with calcium. It is Citrus Hill Plus Calcium, and contains a unique type of calcium which scientific studies show, on average, is more readily absorbed by the body than the calcium found in other sources—including milk and supplement pills.

Calcium is a mineral essential for building strong bones and healthy teeth, and is one of the two recognized safeguards against the onset of osteoporosis, the degenerative bone disease afflicting 20 million Americans. Published scientific research also links calcium with lowering blood pressure and reducing the risk of stroke and colon cancer.

Tourists Seek Freshest Foods

In Maine it's the lobster, in Wisconsin it's the cheese, in New York it's the apples. The growing search by tourists for the freshest foods is creating a boom in growing areas and produce markets across the country, says Francis Domoy, executive director of Rochester Institute of Technology's Institute for Tourism Development. "The increasing urbanization of the U.S. and the decline of the farm have created the desire to go back to rural areas where fresh foods are available," says Domoy. "People are also looking for authentic, fresh foods in urban farmers' markets, which are proliferating (becoming more popular)."

"Hotels and motels near growing areas are packed during harvest season, and tourists' attractions are developing around food and food sampling," says Maureen Torrey, director of marketing, Torrey Farms in Elba, New York. "People are more aware of where to find some of the best foods, and they will drive 200 to 300 miles for fresh grapes or apples."

Magazine Offers Free Diversification Conference

In response to the ailing farm economy, *Successful Farmer*, a national farm management magazine, has invited farmers and ranchers from across America to attend a free conference entitled, "ADAPT 100: Ag Diversification Adds Profit Today, 100 ideas for farmers." The conference will be held December 2-3, 1986, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Farmers will be boarding free busses at 170 stops across the U.S. and attending the 1 1/2-day seminar also at no charge. Speakers at the conference are actual producers who have successfully used diverse crops and animals to make a profit. They will cover topics such as producing gourmet vegetables, asparagus, herbs, Shiitake mushrooms, crayfish, llamas and many more commodities. Innovative management ideas will also be discussed. (Please see related story on page 24.)

Check, Please

BEEF

You will be seeing this logo in many different places soon. It is the new symbol adopted by the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board to identify programs that are either fully or partially funded by the beef industry's $1 per head checkoff program. (For every animal sold, $1 of the sale will go to this board to promote beef.)

"Cattlemen need something that will identify in clear, tangible terms how their dollar is being spent to promote beef," said Jo Ann Smith, chairman of the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board. "The symbol we'e adopted will accomplish this goal. Whenever anyone in the industry sees this, they'll be seeing their beef dollars at work."

The symbol will be used on television and print advertisements, supermarket displays, brochures, recipe folders, research studies and reports, educational programs and consumer information materials. The check in the logo will usually be printed in red.

Blue-green Genes

Slimy, blue-green algae that are among Earth's oldest creatures are being enlisted to serve modern agriculture through one of science's newest technologies. Cyanobacteria, commonly called blue-green algae, have existed on Earth for at least 2.8 billion years. A team of scientists from the colleges of Science and Agriculture at Penn State used genes from the ancient algae to try to tailor-make new herbicide resistant plants.

The team made one cyanobacterium called PR-6, resistant to the common herbicide, atrazine. Then they identified the gene responsible for the resistance, cloned it and put it into tobacco plants. They are waiting to see if the tobacco plants prove resistant to atrazine.

These FFA members learned how to use computer software to take a byte out of SOE and farm business record keeping chores

Software Selections— Get With The Program

By Michael Wilson

WHEN Chris Cogburn, president of the Happy, Texas, FFA Chapter, sits down to work on his Supervised Occupational Experience program and farm record books, he takes with him some very powerful tools.

For one thing, Chris rarely touches a pencil or piece of scratch paper. And he rarely makes long, tedious calculations, or tears his records from erasing over and over. Chris uses his computer to keep records; the tools he uses are thin squares of plastic called floppy disks, not much bigger than your hand. The disks contain computer programs called "software," the secret ingredient needed to unleash real computer power.

While computers themselves may look fancy, it's the software programs you plug into the machine that really matter. Software helps Chris and others like him store information, keep records, write and make management decisions—faster and easier than ever.

Ever since the FFA first began recognizing FFA members for their computer skills in 1984, FFA members with a knack for computing have been encouraged to develop their record keeping skills. Some have gone on to write their own commercial software and start computer consulting businesses.

Chris Cogburn, winner of the 1986 Texas Computers in Agriculture award, is no exception when it comes to computer enthusiasm. Among other software programs, Chris uses VP-Planner, by Paperback Software. It's a Lotus 1-2-3 compatible "spreadsheet" program: a type of software that will make just about any kind of financial calculation or analysis Chris can think of. He's using it to track his SOE record book and make financial projections for the family farm. No small task, considering the Cogburns farm about 2,500 acres, mostly wheat, hay and pasture for 1,200 head of beef cattle.

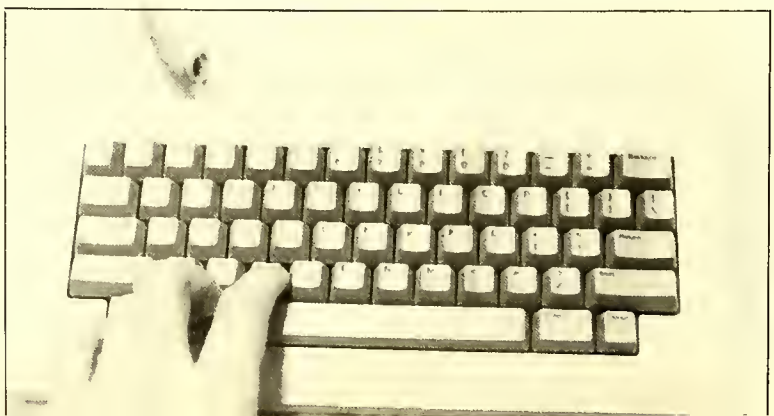


Chris Cogburn's brother, Clay, 14, tests some unfamiliar software during the recent Computers in Agriculture seminar. *Photos by Andrew Markwart*

Chris purchased the spreadsheet for $55 through a mail order service. He uses it on his Tandy 1000 IBM compatible computer, and says it's paid for itself many times. "I've done cash flow projections for both our stocker (young beef cattle) and wheat operations," says Chris. "We input variables and see what changes we should make to get the best prices. It's really handy when you have so many cattle. If we can show our banker what our projected breakeven costs will be, he'll be more willing to finance our operation to our needs."

Chris began using the spreadsheet on his wheat SOE record books, and soon learned he could do more work in less time, with better, neater results. "It's less drudgery," says Chris. "For one thing, the computer doesn't make any math errors. And you can do your calculations so much quicker."

It was little wonder then, that Chris also earned the Texas Cereal Grain proficiency award last year.



Costs

One of the few drawbacks to most computer programs these days is cost: individual programs can cost over $1,000 each, depending on the type of program you purchase. But most FFA members who use such software on SOE or farms and agribusiness record keeping, say costs are recovered quickly, through better efficiency, generating new business, and money management.

Chris Leman, the 1986 Illinois Computers in Agriculture winner, says record keeping is critical on his family's grain

and livestock farm near Roanoke, Illinois. That's because the farm specializes in producing purebred swine breeding stock.

Chris says his family purchased $1,100 worth of software and now keep the farm's records electronically. "So far that software has paid for itself 14 times over," says Chris. "And that's only considering the data base used for our mailing list to generate new customers. That doesn't include the financial breakdown and boar analysis programs we use."

Tony Schwartz, from the Crook County FFA Chapter, Powell Butte, Oregon, beat the high cost of software by writing and customizing his own software. He wrote one program that helped him discover the best, most efficient ration to feed his livestock.

"My original intention was to make my operation more efficient and improve my management," says Tony, who now attends Oregon State University majoring in computer science and ag economics. "I reduced swine feed costs from $230 per ton down to $130 per ton. The feed-ration program greatly increased rate of gain for my market animals, due to higher quality rations."

Tony says high software prices were a key factor in his decision to create his own software. "Commercial ag software is outrageously priced," he says. But Tony admits the cost of software can often be justified in savings from better efficiency. "I could probably buy a feed ration program like the one I wrote for about $100. In my case, I found out I was feeding an extra 20 tons feed per year. At $100 a ton, I'd be saving $2,000 a year with similar commercial software."

Still, farm software is usually more costly than conventional software. That's because it is specialized and marketed to a smaller audience.

Some FFA members and advisors have gotten a break on software prices by subscribing to ACCESS, a specialized computer service operated by the National FFA Supply Service. For a $45 annual membership fee, ACCESS provides members with software price discounts, software reviews, and allows them to preview software before buying. Members also receive a newsletter.

ACCESS discounts are more substantial on higher priced programs. For example, most programs that retail for over $1,000 are discounted as much as 80 percent below retail price. Many programs that retail for less than $100, though, are discounted only 12 to 20 percent, although some are discounted as much as 50 percent.



All this fuss over these little disks?

Modified to fit

Like Tony, Chris Leman also modified software programs to "custom-fit" the farm's enterprises. For example, he modified a Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet and used computer formulas developed at the University of Illinois. The entire activity took him two months to complete, but it was well worth the time, says Chris.

"The program ranks the farm's boars based on genetic characteristics and performance relative to each other," he says. "That way customers can see more accurately which boars best suit their needs."

Besides his least-cost feed ration program, Tony Schwartz developed software that records all production information on breeding stock, including sire, dam, vaccinations, weights and rate of gain. Tony has also used commercial software, namely dBASE III, a database management program to record data for mailing lists, and Lotus 1-2-3, a spreadsheet program used for accounting and billing at his parents' meat store. He decided to buy those programs based on word of mouth recommendations from others who had used them.

And although Tony has written his own programs, he doesn't necessarily recommend the practice to every computer user. "Many times students seem to be re-inventing the wheel when it comes to writing software," he says. "It's nice to write software but a lot of times it's not practical. You can often purchase similar programs if reasonably priced, and use them instead."

Beyond the farm

Good software is not limited to the farm, either. Many students first developed an interest in computers in the vo-ag classroom, and now repay their advisors by helping instruct other students, computerize instruction documents, and create chapter data bases.

Patrick Settle, Inman, South Carolina, puts word processing software to good use at the Dorman FFA Chapter, in Spartanburg. He's helped his vo-ag teacher convert chapter records, testing, demonstration, and student records, into computer files on Commodore and Zenith IBM compatible computers.

"Right now I'm BOAC chairman, so I've been writing a lot of letters and news releases using word processing programs," says Patrick. He uses Multiplan, a spreadsheet program, and Word, a word processing program. Both programs are sold by Microsoft, Inc., and came bundled with Patrick's Zenith computer.

Patrick also uses Easy Script and Paper Clip, two word processing programs, on his Commodore computer. He uses VIP Library, by Softlaw, and News Room, by Springboard, to write and manage the FFA chapter newsletter.

In addition, Patrick uses "public domain" software—that is, software that is free to use by the public. "Public domain software doesn't always offer the great capabilities of commercial software, but it usually has what you need, and it's free," says Patrick. He also uses "shareware," which is software used on an honor system: if the user likes the program, he is obligated to send a small fee to the creator of the program. If he does not like the program he is obligated to erase it or pass it on to a friend. •••

Brian David Winnslett of Virginia reviews a new software program.



Faraway Faces in Nearby Places

Here's how one American farm family travelled to Switzerland—and never left their midwest farm

By Molly Wilson



Close ties develop between host families and exchange trainees like young Ryan and Renate. *Photo by Author*

THE Dale Wernicke family of Lena, Illinois, went to Switzerland last summer. They tasted the food and even learned some of the language.

What's so unusual about their international experience is that the Wernickes never left their midwestern grain and livestock farm.

Instead, the Wernickes saw the world through the eyes of an international exchange trainee. From April through September, they hosted Renate (pronounced Ra-not) Obrecht, a 22-year-old FFA international exchange trainee from Wangenried, Switzerland. While Renate tasted a slice of American rural life, the Wernickes were gaining something too, a new perspective on how people from around the world live.

Father and husband Dale Wernicke, his wife Anita and five-year-old Ryan Wernicke, have hosted international trainees before. But their other international guests stayed but a few days.

"There's a world of difference between having an international guest stay a few days, and participating in the FFA's exchange program as a host family," says Mrs. Anita Wernicke. "Renate was in the United States for six months and she spent the majority of her time working on our farm. She has seen every step of our operation."

The soft-spoken Renate explained in broken English, "I wanted to come to America to see what the farming was like. My sisters had come to America before, but I wanted to see it for myself."

And there has been plenty of work to do on the Wernicke's 420-acre farm. The Wernickes raise 120 shorthorn purebreds for breeding and take their show cattle to six state fairs each year.

The Wernickes felt it was important to give Renate responsibilities during her stay in America. She helped feed bulls, learned to check for heat cycles, checked cows that were about to calf, helped make hay and grind feed. She also manuevered cattle into the chutes, drove the tractor, hauled round bales and mowed the yard. Renate also helped with the indoor chores, ironing clothes, washing the dishes and vacuuming.

The Wernickes paid Renate for her work during the exchange, besides providing room and board. They used the pay guidelines suggested by the FFA. And it's hard to put a dollar figure on the experiences both parties received during the exchange. One of the keys to success was the fact that Renate was made to feel at home during her visit.

"We always thought that if we treated her like a family member, and made her feel comfortable, she would act like a family member—and we both would learn more in the process," says Mrs. Wernicke.

"We wanted Renate to have a successful program and we weren't disappointed. She was here to work, to learn about our culture and to have a wonderful once-in-a-lifetime experience. We found that we learned about her culture and also about Swiss agriculture. We had a great time."

Patience and Understanding

What does it take to be host family? The Wernickes say an ideal host family should have a great deal of patience and understanding.

"You have to realize that this person didn't grow up in America. Their ways are different than ours. It can be as difficult for us to relate to their lifestyles as it is for them to relate to American lifestyles," says Mrs. Wernicke.

The key to understanding, she says, is communication—even if you don't speak each other's language. The Wernickes knew it would be difficult to understand their Swiss miss at first, since Renate knew only a little English. But that didn't stop them. "We have a small child, Ryan, who is 5 years old. We viewed it as if they were learning English together," says Mrs. Wernicke.

Actually many of the exchange students who come to America through the FFA program have already learned some English in school. Once they arrive in America, most exchange trainees learn enough English to communicate easily with their American families within a month or two.

Renate's stay in America was not all work and no play. While the main emphasis of the FFA's exchange program is to learn about American agriculture, most families go out of their way to show their foreign guests some of the local sights. The Wernickes were no exception. "We figure that she might only be here once, and we wanted her to see as much as possible," said Mrs. Wernicke.

Renate was anxious to share her America experience with her family and friends back in Switzerland. "I sent all my photos home," she says. "I wanted them to see all that I was seeing."

The exchange has made the Wernickes anxious, too—anxious to switch places with Renate and visit her in Switzerland next summer.

Meanwhile, when Renate packed her bags and headed for home, she filled her suitcase with souvenirs that had been purchased over the last six months. But more importantly, she packed her heart with memories—memories that she will be unpacking for a long, long time. •••

How You Can Host an Exchange Student

Each year about 200 foreign agriculture trainees like Renate come to the United States to work with American farm families. These trainees are 18-24 years old, arrive in March or June and stay in the U.S. for 3, 6 or 12 months.

Farm families who are interested in hosting a trainee should be able to provide room and board, a monthly stipend established by the FFA, participation in local FFA type of activities, and a stable, rural family atmosphere.

Families who want to apply to host a trainee are required to fill out an application and also have a letter of recommendation from an FFA advisor. Potential hosts are then matched up with trainees by the international staff.

If you are interested in receiving more information about hosting an international trainee, contact the International Department, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-360-3600.



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NFF



BOAC's New Ambassadors



By Andrew Markwart

A NEW "ambassador" system designed to spread awareness of FFA's Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program by using its most active, informed participants, was unveiled during the fourth national FFA Conference on Community Development.

The conference, held September 27-October 1, in Washington, D.C., is sponsored each year by RJR Nabisco, Inc., to honor individual state winners, train them further in community leadership, and announce the national Achievement in Volunteerism Award winner.

This year's winner, Jim Fink, of Beaufort, Missouri, is one of the 50 state winners/ambassadors who will be touring their state in the coming year, speaking about BOAC's accomplishments in community development and suggesting possibilities the program holds for many depressed rural economies.

The ambassadors will also be responsible for providing feedback to the National FFA Organization so the BOAC program can be finer tuned to the wants of local chapters. According to Jeff Saharsky, last year's national winner, the ambassador program fills an important gap. "Now this conference won't be the last scene in the BOAC program for these winners. They'll be a reference point—an information source for both members and the national organization," said Saharsky.

The BOAC ambassadors will speak to civic groups and local government agencies to explain the role FFA is taking in the development of their state's rural communities. They will also speak to FFA chapters about expanding their current program to have greater impact in their community and generating more participation in the chapter itself.

Presentation materials are being supplied to the ambassadors as well as feedback forms. That feedback data will furnish organizers of the BOAC program information that will steer it in the future.

John Whisman, conference director, said the state winners are fundamental to the growth of the program. "We are not viewing them as students at this point; they are teachers and negotiators for the program," says Whisman. "They are the charter group for this new idea, and we see them as program builders."

The shift of BOAC's focus from mainly beautification projects in the 1970s to the economic development projects of the '80s is a healthy move, according to Kansas state winner, Greg Doud. "I think it's a long overdue and necessary shift. There

Lyng Gives FFA'ers the Inside Line

The 50 BOAC winners and their advisors heard candid comments from Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng during his speech at the conference breakfast on Wednesday, October 1. They also took the opportunity to ask some hard-hitting questions about the state of agriculture. Here are excerpts from his remarks:

On the BOAC program...

"It's the kind of local leadership effort that is the most important single thing you can do to improve rural American communities. We've tried to throw money at that problem in Washington. We've tried to solve the problem from Washington, but you can't do it. ...It's the kind of pragmatic program that we just cannot, by any way, stimulate from the Congress, from the White House, or from Washington. You have to get it literally in the grassroots."

On local leadership...

"The thing that distinguishes the United States...from other countries in this world, is the fact that we do have local leadership, local responsibilities, local organizations. Whether it's service clubs, churches or local government agencies, it's the participation of lots of people in local government that makes this country really different."

On the Congress...

"It doesn't seem to me that we're doing much that we can be proud of in terms of our ability to make decisions and get going. I don't know how long the Congress will continue to play a game of brinksmanship (being on the brink of disaster) with the policies of the country, but it's very difficult to plan and manage the government when the appropriation bills (which dictate how much money goes to each government agency) are as badly handled as they have been handled in the Congress this year."

On American agriculture...

"I never cease to wonder at the cornbelt. That is, without a doubt, our greatest agricultural asset. As I've said before, it's worth more than all the oil fields of Arabia, in that it's a renewable asset that just keeps grinding out and improving the quantity and quality of corn year after year after year."

On cutting Cooperative Extension Service funds...

"Everything the Extension Service does is not a high priority item, and we think there may be some places that we can cut some of those. But we certainly don't think it should be done away with."





Photos by RJR Nabisco, Inc.

Above, state winners pose at the National FFA Center after a tour of the building and an address by Larry Case, national FFA advisor. The group had arrived only a few hours earlier at Mount Vernon Plantation, onboard the appropriately named ship, the "Ambassador."

are always going to be those areas where we can fix up and clean up, and I still think we need those types of projects," says Doud.

"But at least in our community—and in many small communities throughout the United States—they'll benefit much better and it doesn't require that much more work to be involved in this type of project."

Doud speaks from first-hand experience. He and his fellow Mankato FFA members decided that the gradual economic decline of their community needed to cease. Their rural community in north-central Kansas had suffered from the recent farm shakeout, and everyone was feeling the pinch.

The chapter decided to study the strengths of the surrounding area, and found that it had the capacity to produce large amounts of top-grade alfalfa hay. After researching some potential businesses and hay associations, they invited a hay marketer from Montana to visit the community. The marketer was impressed with the quality of both the hay and the townspeople, and decided to relocate his business to Mankato.

They are now shipping hay across the continental United States, and new money is being pumped into the local economy. When asked what the whole experience meant to him, Doud replied, "I've learned that I can make a difference." •••

National Achievement in Volunteersim winner, Jim Fink, is congratulated by Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng after Lyng's address to the BOAC conference Wednesday morning.



National Winner, Jim Fink

Jim Fink, 18, of Beaufort, Missouri, is this year's national Achievement in Volunteerism Award winner. Jim and his Union FFA Chapter helped organize and implement an emergency numbering system for his community. The fully computerized system was designed to locate the scene of a rural emergency so an ambulance, fire squad or police unit could arrive faster to assist victims. (Their complete story is told in the August-September issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER.*)

Jim says the system has already made a difference in reaction time. He cited the example of a neighbor who suffered an allergic reaction to a beesting—a situation where treatment time is crucial. An ambulance arrived on the scene eight minutes after receiving the call for help; due mainly to detailed directions supplied by the computer information system.

Jim points out that eight minutes may not seem like a fast reaction time, but considering the ambulance has an area of 113 square miles to cover containing 114 roads, eight minutes is *very* fast.

The numbering system has expanded to cover two additional fire districts since it began and other communities are showing interest in setting up their own system using Union's as a model.

Thrills and Chills in



The 1986-87 National FFA Officers congratulate each other on stage before a packed auditorium. Left to right are: Daren Coppock, western region vice president; Jayme Feary, southern region vice president; Jones Loflin, eastern region vice president; Dean Harder, central region vice president; Kevin Yost, secretary; and Kevin Eblen, president.

The 1986-87 National Officer Team

OF FFA's 430,375 members, the following six young men have been chosen to represent and lead the organization for the coming year. Here are some facts about the newly elected officers:

Kevin Eblen
President

Kevin Eblen, 20, is from Creston, Iowa. Kevin served as Iowa's state president, state secretary, district vice president and reporter and held many chapter offices as a member of the Creston FFA Chapter.

His Supervised Occupational Experience program (SOE) included corn, soybeans and beef production. He also earned Iowa's Star Agribusiness of America award this year by managing his own agribusiness and working for his father's farm drainage construction business.

The new national president is an Iowa State University sophomore majoring in agricultural public service and administration.

Kevin Yost
Secretary

This Kevin, also 20, is from DeWitt, Nebraska. Before being elected state president in Nebraska, he served as reporter and vice president of his Tri County FFA Chapter. Kevin's SOE program focused on a purebred and commercial cow/calf operation, hay and sorghum production, and his own artificial insemination business.

Like the rest of the national officers, Kevin will take a year off from college to fulfill such duties as traveling across the U.S. speaking to chapters and state associations. He is a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he is majoring in agribusiness and animal science.

Jones Loflin
Eastern Region Vice President

Jones is a 20-year-old resident of Denton, North Carolina, and plans to teach vocational agriculture after graduating from North Carolina State University where he is presently a junior studying ag education.

After serving as an officer at the chapter, district and federation levels, he was North Carolina's state president last year. Jones was active in parliamentary procedure, land judging and poultry contests. His SOE was managing and operating a 60-acre dairy farm.

Dean Harder
Central Region Vice President

A native of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, 20-year-old Dean Harder raised purebred Suffolk sheep in his SOE program. He has served as Minnesota state president, district treasurer and president of the Mountain Lake FFA Chapter.

Dean excelled in parliamentary procedure, public speaking and judging contests. He is attending the University of Minnesota where he is majoring in agribusiness education.

Jayme Feary
Southern Region Vice President

Jayme Feary's local advisor, B.W. Bryan, from the Falkville, Alabama, FFA Chapter, must have been beaming with pride. At the closing convention session, he witnessed his student, Jayme, being installed as southern region vice president by another one of his students, Robert Weaver, last year's southern vice president.

Jayme's involvement in FFA ranges from steer shows to quartet to livestock and public speaking contests. His SOE program included cattle, goats, horses and forage crops. He is a junior at Auburn University majoring in agricultural education.

Daren Coppock
Western Region Vice President

As a junior majoring in agricultural economics at Oregon State University, Daren is planning a career in agricultural finance or commodity marketing. This 20-year-old from Adams, Oregon, won the state extemporaneous public speaking contest before he was elected to state president. He also served as district president and participated in soil, crop and livestock judging contests.

Daren's SOE program at his Pendleton FFA Chapter was diversified in wheat, barley, market steers, sheep and a small herd of registered shorthorn cattle.

Kansas City

Thousands of FFA members battled freezing weather to participate in their annual national convention.



Thomas Davis, of the Sutter, California, FFA Chapter, watches his warm breath turn to a white cloud as temperatures plunged below the freezing point at this year's convention.

By Andrew Markwart

STEPPING outside Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium during National FFA Convention was like jumping from the fire into the refrigerator.

Inside the auditorium, 31 national officer candidates were nervously sweating it out, answering questions in an area they affectionately call "the hot box."

FFA members from South Carolina to North Dakota were packed shoulder-to-shoulder in the cramped aisles of Bartle Hall as they explored what was new in the Agricultural Career Show.

FFA TIMES reporters shed their well-pressed wool suit jackets to hammer out stories on old typewriters and a few precious personal computers in the stuffy confines of the convention newsroom.

That was inside.

Outside, the temperature usually registered somewhere in the teens and the wind-chill factor dipped well below zero. The record-setting cold cut through the blue corduroy FFA jackets and headed straight to the bone. The warm convention sessions were well attended.

The 59th National FFA Convention, held November 12-15, was once again the largest agricultural youth gathering in the world. National officers Rick Malir, Coby Shorter, Cindy Blair, Kip Godwin, Robert Weaver and Kevin Coffman took charge of the intense convention sessions. They squeezed in as much motivation, entertainment and award ceremonies as possible into three short days.

The convention gave the FFA organization a chance to honor old friends, announce record-setting figures and introduce new twists. The FFA paid tribute to long-time sponsor John Deere and Company as they celebrated their 150th anniversary of business.

The National FFA Foundation again set a new fund-raising record by announcing is had raised $2.5 million for FFA projects and members. With agriculture's economy in a depressed state, how did the Foundation manage to raise *more* money? "We asked all those who believe in FFA to stand up for American agriculture," said Bill Munsell, 1986 National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman. "Our sponsors answered that call with generosity."

New twists to the convention were the Agri-Science Teacher of the Year Award, presented to Steven Alan McKay of Boonville, California, and a new Agricultural Career recruitment program, unveiled for the first time at the Career Show.

Of course, there were announcements of national awards. Chris Thompson of Midland City, Alabama, was named Star

Mark Smith, of New Haven, Indiana, tastes the thrill of victory as he hears his name announced as national winner of the Soil and Water Management proficiency award. A complete listing of proficiency winners is found on page 18.





Attending to the serious matters at hand were official delegates Brad Lewis, Alabama, and Stephen Tinsley, Georgia. The delegates met in small committees and as a full body to analyze and vote on FFA organizational policy.



Farmer of America. Chris assumed responsibility for managing an 800-acre vegetable and row crop farm after his father suffered a heart attack. Todd Wilkinson of White House, Tennessee, was named Star Agribusinessman. Todd is owner and operator of his Wilkinson Plant Center, where he sells vegetable and bedding plants, landscape and garden supplies and a variety of nursery stock.

Elma, Washington, received the national Building Our American Communities award for their tree-planting program that brought relief to their local economy. Bart Collins of Harrison, Arkansas, won the national prepared public speaking contest for his speech, "Free Enterprise: the Answer!" Kenneth (Buddy) Coleman won the extemporaneous public speaking contest. His speech was titled, "Why Should Students Considering Professional Careers in Agriculture Take Vocational Agriculture in High School?"

The American Farmer Degree was bestowed on 735 deserving FFA members for their commitment to agriculture and the FFA. Less than two out of every 1,000 members earn FFA's highest degree. Over 200 Honorary American Farmer Degrees were conferred upon those who have given exceptional service to young people, vo-ag and the FFA.

The FFA Alumni Association also held their national convention during the week. In addition to their popular leadership workshops, the Alumni held their first auction, raising $3,700 for awards and programs.

A complete listing of all national winners and details of the convention can be found in the *Convention Proceedings* and a set of *FFA Times* newspapers, which were mailed to each FFA chapter immediately after the close of convention. •••

Photos by Orlin Wagner, Michael Wilson and Andrew Markwart.



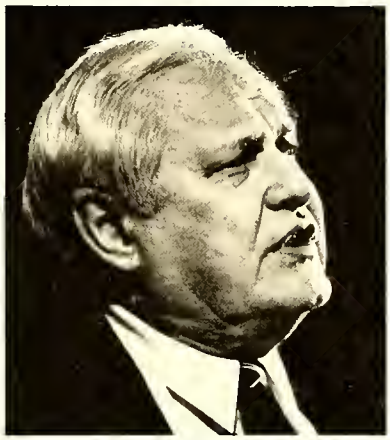
Above, Star Farmer of America Chris Thompson of Midland City, Alabama, and Star Agribusinessman Todd Wilkinson of White House, Tennessee, each received award plaques, a $2,000 check and thundering applause from everyone attending the Thursday night session.

It wasn't unusual to see cowboys and computers in the Ag Ed Network booth during the Agricultural Career Show, left. Everyone was invited to tap into AgriData Resources, Inc., database in Milwaukee via the phone lines. Git along, little cursor.



Performers in the talent, band and chorus programs entertained the 21,860 FFA members, advisors and guests throughout the three-day convention.

Featured speakers such as syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, below left, Teacher in Space finalist Susan Forte, below right, and Olympic decathlon gold medalist Bruce Jenner, below center, spoke about the future of agriculture, the future of America, and the strength of the human spirit. Other featured speakers were Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng and motivational speaker Bob Moawad.









Steven Alan McKay of Boonville, California, receives the first Agri-Science Teacher of the Year award from Robert Weaver, southern region vice president. The award, sponsored by the Stauffer Agricultural Products Division of Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., recognized McKay for his use of a computer-controlled solar greenhouse, a seven-acre model farm and a plant tissue culture lab to teach his students agriculture.

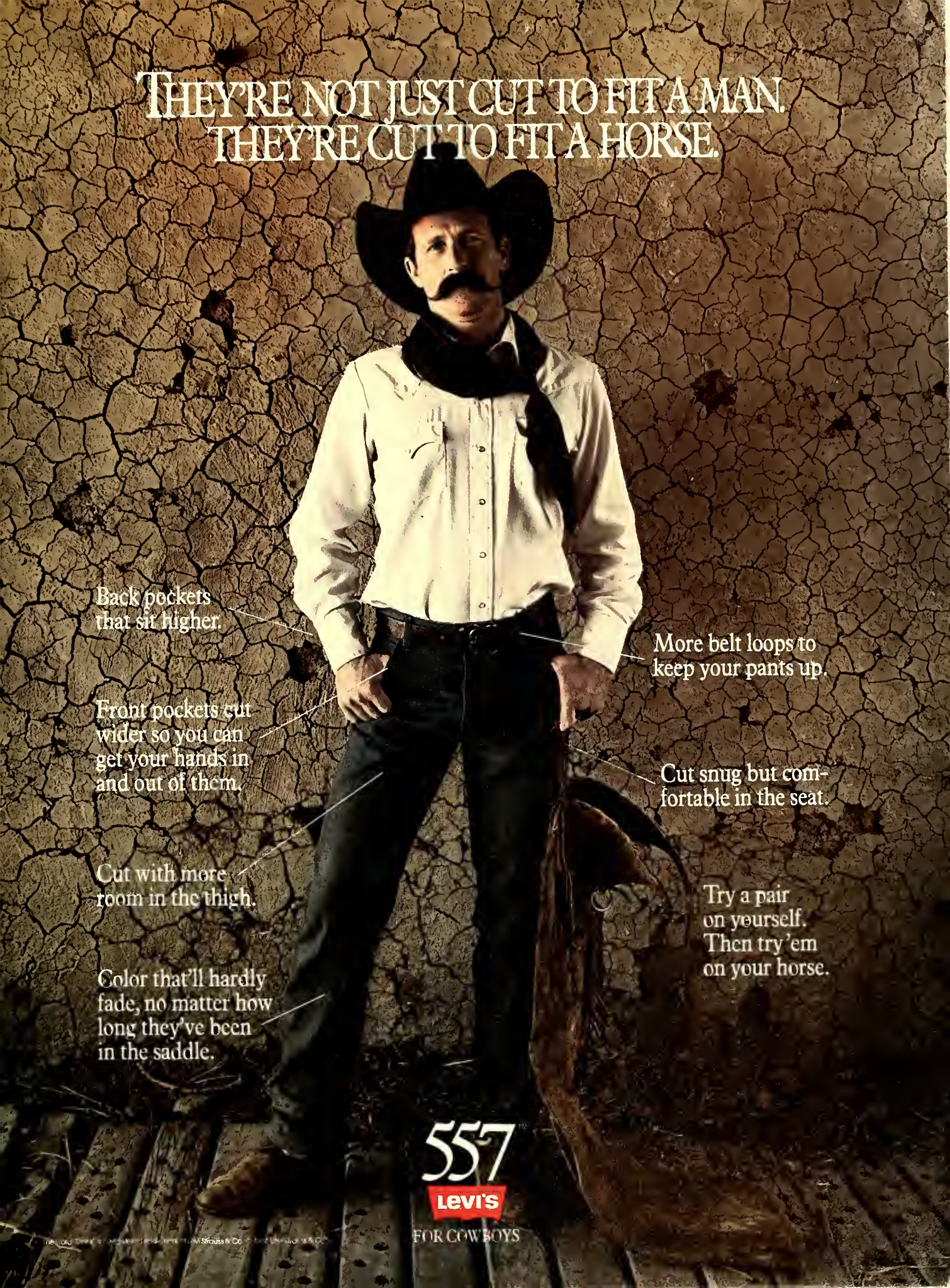
Finals for the national judging contests like Agricultural Mechanics, right, and Dairy Foods, below, were held at various locations throughout Kansas City. For a complete listing of national contest winners, turn the page.





Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Prepared Public Speaking	Deanna Billings Green Ridge, MO	Tricia Kritzler Kenton, OH	**Bart Collins** Harrison, AR	Carrie Brown Lawton, OK	FMC Foundation
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Brian Mulnix Ridgeway, MO	Robin Burns Andover, CT	**Kenneth Coleman** Lexington, TN	Paula McKillip Kennewick, WA	American Farm Bureau Federation
Agricultural Proficiency					
Agricultural Electrification	**Bryan Bower** Barry, IL	Mark Bradley Elizabethtown, PA	Charles Hayes Limestone, TN	Richard Frech Wakita, OK	National Food and Energy Council, Inc.; Klein Tools, Inc.; General Fund
Agricultural Mechanics	**Jesse Davis** Frankfort, IN	Scott Aeschliman Wauseon, OH	Walt Carter Avon Park, FL	Richard Rezendes Chowchilla, CA	Case IH
Agricultural Processing	**David Stieglitz** New Haven, IN	Nunzio Daiello Bellevue, OH	Keith Starling Avon Park, FL	Dusty Shill Wellton, AZ	Carnation Company
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	Roger Luebbe, Jr Clarks, NE	Ruth Johnson Medway, OH	Randy Wright Avon Park, FL	Burleigh Binning, III Pinedale, WY	Chevrolet Motor Div.-Trucks/General Motors Corp.; Babson Brothers Company; General Fund
Beef Production	Kurt Dvergsten Greenbush, MN	Andrew Meadows Elkton, VA	Marshall Johnson Harrogate, TN	**Jay Overton** Pond Creek, OK	Nasco Division/Nasco International, Inc.; New Holland, Inc.
Cereal Grain Production	Douglas Pribyl Denmark, WI	**Ron Lortcher** Willard, OH	Robert Hurt Halls, TN	Leo Tomsu Medford, OK	DuPont Agricultural Chemicals
Dairy Production	**Brian Harbaugh** Elkader, IA	Daryl Duncan Warsaw, OH	Lonnie Webb Lincoln, AR	Brent Stahlman Gage, OK	Alpha-Laval, Inc.; Agri Group; American Breeders Service; Bristol-Myers Animal Health
Diversified Crop Production	Kenneth Bradley Trafalgar, IN	David Miller Washington C.H., OH	**William McKenzie** Fairhope, AL	Mark Speaker Briggsdale, CO	Cargill, Inc.
Diversified Livestock Production	**Brad Chambliss** Hardinsburg, KY	Craig Bailey Harrisonburg, VA	Derek Bartholomew Huron, TN	Ralph Perkins Panguitch, UT	Dodge Division, Chrysler Corp.; Wayne Feed Division/Continental Grain Co.
Feed Grain Production	David Anderegg Guttenberg, IA	Charles Thomas Winston Salem, NC	David Preston Cantonment, FL	**Jeffrey Cooksey** Roggen, CO	Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Fiber Crop Production	Jason Blunt Essex, MO		**Allen Lewis** Gates, TN	Jason Chambers Vinson, OK	The Shell Companies Foundation, Inc.; Valmont Industries, Inc.
Floriculture	Dawn Dostal Marion, IA	**Adrienne Shaffer** Knoxville, MD	J. Scott Binford Bartlett, TN	Carrie Koons Enid, OK	The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch; The Lerio Corporation; General Fund
Forage Production	**Tim Favourite** Pleasant Lake, IN	Andrew Yost Salisbury, NC	Bruce Pierce Speedwell, TN	Joel Gale Seabrook, TX	Gehl Company; Northrup King Company; United Agri Products
Forest Management	Thomas Eickholtz Kendallville, IN	Jerry Starkey Paris, OH	Nathan Slaughter Chiefland, FL	**Ken Hilliker** Eatonville, WA	General Fund
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	Karen Lischka Two Rivers, WI	Bonnie Wehr Orefield, PA	James Williams Worthington Springs, FL	**Darren Morris** Klein, TX	Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	Scott Neighbor Winthrop, IA	Lance Shears Elizabeth, WV	**Jaye Hamby** Benton, TN	Alan Mainwaring Port Orchard, WA	Upjohn, TUCO, Asgrow
Horse	Melodi Hurst Harrisburg, SD	**Lydee Cassel** Hummelstown, PA	Donald Stemmans Carencro, LA	Kim Stamps Norman, OK	The American Quarter Horse Association
Nursery Operations	John Richards North Vernon, IN	John Petitti Valley View, OH	**Jeff Jones** McMinnville, TN	Chuck Blankenship Arlington, WA	General Fund
Oil Crop Production	Scott Wilferd Farmington, KY	**John Davis** Delaware, OH	Terrence Whitfield Elko, GA	Kevin Hetrick Orovada, NV	The Shell Companies Foundation, Inc.; The Chicago Board of Trade
Outdoor Recreation	Brian Parkinson Mt. Vernon, IN	**Hal Whittington** Strasburg, VA	Harold Duggin Woodbury, TN	Fred Schmidtke Forest Grove, OR	Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.
Placement in Agriculture Production	Kurt Nagel Rensselaer, IN	**Steven Buschur** New Weston, OH	Bill Laird Sanderson, FL	Kelly Katzer Elma, WA	International Minerals & Chemical Corp.; CIBA-GEIGY Corporation
Poultry Production	Craig Olson Parkers Prairie, MN	Kevin Richert Danville, OH	**Eric Dalton** Benton, TN	Ken Mitchell Elk Grove, CA	Chore-Time Equipment, Inc.; Red Brand Fence/Made by Keystone Steel & Wire Co.; General Fund
Sheep Production	Kerri Kratka Dysart, IA	Billy Wade Greenville, VA	Anita Golden Arthur, TN	**Brenda Lowe** Orland, CA	American Sheep Producers Council, Inc.; Sheep Industry Dev. Program, Inc.; Manna Pro Corp.; General Fund
Soil and Water Management	**Mark Smith** New Haven, IN	David Crank Henderson, WV	Ray Hornick Avon Park, FL	Clay Muegge Lamont, OK	Ford Motor Company Fund
Specialty Animal Production	Michael Roy Shoals, IN	**Randy Tice** Kenton, OH	Jeffrey Stalvey Hahira, GA	Justin Avril Homer, AK	Purina Mills, Inc.; General Fund
Specialty Crop Production	**Scott Travis** Taylorsville, KY	David Snead South Hill, VA	Greg Matherly Gray, TN		RJR Nabisco, Inc.
Swine Production	**Edward Sheldon** Greencastle, IN	Todd Bennecoff Kutztown, PA	John Gibson Union Grove, AL	Randal Schwartz San Angelo, TX	Pfizer, Incorporated/Agricultural Div.
Turf and Landscape Management	Brad Meyerholtz Evansville, IN	**Scott Johnson** Northboro, MA	Joseph Dudley Trenton, TN	Kirk Harris Richfield, UT	O.M. Scott & Sons
Wildlife Management	Ken Baasi Iron, MN	Shannon Inman Newport, NC	Eric Johnson Trenton, TN	**Bret Mouse** Elk City, OK	Philip Morris Incorporated
National BOAC Citation	Mankato FFA Mankato, KS	New Lexington FFA New Lexington, OH	Bartlett FFA Bartlett, TN	**Elma FFA** Elma, WA	R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	**Minnesota**—Jim Hanson, Rich Bergstrom and Alan Schmitz; Adams	**Kent Starkenburg** Stanwood, WA	Firestone Trust Fund
Dairy	**Ohio**—Eric Schultz, Kirk Schultz and Scott Sooy; Grafton	**Kirk Schultz**	Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
Dairy Foods	**California**—Elene Philips, Lari Dawn Beberela and Sonja Bettencourt, Hanford	**Lari Dawn Beberela**	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.; Patz Sales, Inc.
Farm Business Management	**Missouri**—Bob Honey, David Shumaker and Doug Thornton; Carl Junction	**Will MacDonald** Bismark, ND	Deere & Co.
Floriculture	**North Carolina**—Christy Youngblood, Derrick Beavers and Gary Hart; Bear Creek	**Christy Youngblood**	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Forestry	**Georgia**—Tony Waller, Tim Hughes and Stephen Tinsley; Atlanta	**Harland Massey** Louisville, MS	Homelite Div. of Textron, Inc.; Temple-Eastex, Inc.; Hammermill Paper Co.
Livestock	**California**—Rosemary Farao, Gene Beamer and Steve Gambril, Arroyo Grande	**Kelly Schaff** Mandan, ND	Purina Mills, Inc.
Meats	**Texas**—Jennifer Ashley, Kevin Caldwell and Johnell Schnuriger; San Antonio	**Johnell Schnuriger**	Geo. A. Hormel & Co.; Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation
Nursery/Landscape	**Georgia**—Zachary Campbell, Teddy Gregory and Andy Rogers; Dunwoody	**Kim Phillips** Bear Creek, NC	American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.; Kubota Tractor Corp.; True Value Hardware Stores Professional Lawn Care Program
Poultry	**Texas**—John Dieckow, Shawn Harris and Daryl Real; San Antonio	**Daryl Real**	Victor F. Weaver, Inc.; Pilgrim's Pride Corp.; Tyson Foods, Inc.


THEY'RE NOT JUST CUT TO FIT A MAN.
THEY'RE CUT TO FIT A HORSE.
Back pockets that sit higher.
More belt loops to keep your pants up.
Front pockets cut wider so you can get your hands in and out of them.
Cut snug but comfortable in the seat.
Cut with more room in the thigh.
Try a pair on yourself. Then try 'em on your horse.
Color that'll hardly fade, no matter how long they've been in the saddle.
557
LEVI'S
FOR COWBOYS

FARM AID



FOR 70 YEARS, THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD, CHEVY TRUCKS HAVE BEEN THERE TO LEAN ON.

NOW, WITH AMERICA'S FARMERS FACING A WHOLE NEW SET OF CHALLENGES, CHEVY COMES THROUGH WITH A TOTAL PROGRAM OF FARM HELP.



Farming. It's like the weather. Sometimes it's all blue skies. Sometimes it doesn't seem fit for man nor beast.

Right now, a lot of farmers are looking for a break in the weather. And all the help they can get.

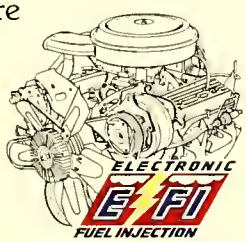
And that's where Chevy comes in like it always has.

First and foremost with a full line of tough, dependable trucks. The kind proved and approved by farmers for nearly 70 years.

But also with new truck features and values. Plus programs that offer direct financial benefits to farmers.

THE ADVANTAGES OF FUEL INJECTION. STANDARD IN EVERY GASOLINE ENGINE.

You've had the experience: A bone-numbing frigid wind. An important chore to do. You turn the key—and all you get is a grinding cough. Well, Electronic Fuel Injection is an important change for the better.



EFI is on every '87 gas-powered Chevy Pickup.

And, among other things, means surer, faster starts under extreme weather conditions. Here are some other ways EFI can work for you:

Power. For example, with EFI the available 350 V8 now delivers up to 210 HP.

Drivability. Chevys with EFI run smoother than ever, thanks to computer-controlled fuel-to-air mix.

A TRUCK THAT GIVES YOU V8 POWER AT NO EXTRA COST.

These days you can expect to pay extra for a V8. But Chevy has a way to get around that. Buy a specially equipped Work-Ready Chevy and you get a fuel-injected 305 V8 *at no extra cost.**

SPECIAL GMAC FARM FINANCING TERMS.

Every Chevy truck is available with a special GMAC Farmer Payment Plan. Qualify and you can tailor your payments to match your cash availability. You can pay more some months. Less others. Ask your Chevy dealer for all the details.†

THE MOST POWERFUL STANDARD ENGINE IN A HALF-TON PICKUP.

It's the Vortec V6. And it's important because it's got the power you need to get the work done: Power that rivals a V8. At no extra cost.

THE BIGGEST CHOICE OF DIESEL POWER.

Today, Chevy offers diesel in 23 full-size pickup models. No one else offers you more diesel advantages.

NEW BACKING FOR THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA.

A good education is basic equipment on today's farm. An important tool for survival. That's why Chevy has been a major contributor to both the Future Farmers of America and to the College Scholarship Fund for National Officers. And that's why Chevy is continuing its FFA contributions again this year.



THE TRUCKS MORE FARMERS LEAN ON THAN ANY OTHER.

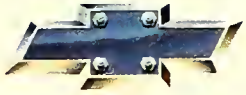
Chevy's bond with America's farmers goes back to 1918.

Today, Chevrolet is the number one farm truck. And that makes the relationship even more special.

That's why, more than ever, you can lean on Chevy.

*Based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of options package vs. options purchased separately
†Not available in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

NOTHING WORKS LIKE A CHEVY TRUCK





Neil clears debris with his 60 horsepower Same tractor. Neil says keeping the logging area cleared has saved wear on his machinery, which saves him repair costs. *Photos by Author*

Forester Neil Mooers is committed to preserving the woodlands and the life that it supports.

He Won't Sell the Forest For His Trees

By Andrew Markwart

WHEN you respect the land, like FFA member Neil Mooers, conservation management is more a way of life than a means to bigger profits.

Responsible forest management is his top priority. Balancing timber harvests and wildlife habitat is a tricky job, but he does it with the conviction that a healthy environment is more important than a healthy bank account.

Neil lives in Strafford, New Hampshire. Located 80 miles north of Boston, and near several largely populated cities, Neil's community is slowly being crowded out of forestland by expanding metropolitan areas.

This is what Neil, 21, and his business partners, Neil Sr., his father, and Dan, his brother, face in their timber management business today. Together they manage nearly 3,000 acres of forestland, most of which is located in an area called the Blue Hills Foundation.

The foundation's forest is owned by private investors and is set aside for the public to continue hunting, trapping and fishing. As long as the land stays in the foundation, it will not be developed for housing or industry.

The Mooers' family operation plays a major role in maintaining the wildlife habitat in the forest while harvesting its timber. They use a method called selective cutting to improve the treestand.



As a member of the American Tree Farm System, Neil is dedicated to replanting trees so there will be future harvests.

Making the Cut

In selective cutting, the logger cuts down only those trees that need to be cut down—mature and diseased trees—and leaves the young, healthy trees to grow for a future harvest. Since pine trees are not well-suited to that particular forest's soil, and suffer from the disease heartrot, Neil is logging them so the hardwoods, such as maples, can grow faster.

He pays landowners for a tree as it stands—called a stumpage fee—and then cuts it down into logs and sells them to timber companys. But selective cutting is only one way to harvest trees.

Most large timber companies use a method called clearcutting. This practice clears large areas of trees so the land is bare. It is more cost-efficient, faster, and easier than selective cutting, but it leaves the logged area open to soil erosion and unfit for wildlife such as deer and other game to live.

Although selective cutting may be more costly now, Neil views it as an investment. "We cut out the 'junk' wood and leave the best. In a few years, we'll be back to cut those, and all the while be continually upgrading the quality," he said.

(Continued on Page 27)

BRIDGE Scholarship Aids Rural Disabled

By Price Grisham

Falling downstairs one morning on your way to breakfast, you suddenly become confined to a wheelchair. Your bedroom is upstairs—and so is the bathroom. Outside the back door, there are two steps, the front porch has seven.

You've managed through some pretty shrewd ingenuity (you think) to maneuver outside. But now imagine that the next driveway is 8 miles away, the nearest town 12 miles away and the nearest medical center that can treat your injury, 50 miles away.

THESE are some of the practical and emotional dilemmas faced by rural America's 8.5 million handicapped citizens every day. The physical limitations with which they struggle can strike anyone, any time, and cut across every age and career category. According to specialists at Purdue University, fully one-fourth of all agricultural producers struggle with either a temporary or permanent disability that affects their work on the farm.

The resulting social barrier can be additionally difficult to accept. Not only must the rural disabled face decreased mobility, but also their remote location—a double isolation.

To bridge this double barrier, FFA is initiating a new educational scholarship and award program: Building Rural Initiative for the Disabled through Group Effort (BRIDGE).

Through the BRIDGE program, educational scholarships will be presented to outstanding FFA members overcoming a physical handicap. Although FFA has no official figures on handicapped members, the number could total more than a thousand members.

Don Hayden, past state vice president of the Washington FFA Association, is a member of the BRIDGE selection committee, which will review the applications. Don was Washington State Junior Poultry Man of the Year, Star Chapter Farmer, and has won awards in public speaking, rabbit production and turf and landscape management. Don is also a quadriplegic.

"When you have a handicap, you don't take anything for granted. Every small accomplishment is a big accomplishment—and that gives you the strength to keep trying," he observed. His planned accomplishment for this spring? To be the first person in a wheelchair to climb Washington's 14,410-foot Mount Rainier.

Struggling with a physical handicap can be overwhelming without supportive friendship. To help in providing that arm of friendship, BRIDGE will also present an award to the local FFA chapter showing the most effective outreach to the rural handicapped.

Spotlighting the accomplishments and needs of the rural handicapped, Senator Paul Trible of Virginia recently introduced legislation with Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina designating October 4, 1986, as National Day of Outreach to the Rural Disabled.

"I applaud the new Future Farmers of America BRIDGE program as a fine example of American volunteerism meeting community needs. The BRIDGE effort will mobilize the boundless energy, good will and idealism of America's farm youth to assist the rural disabled," Mr. Trible stated in his message to the Senate. Similar legislation was presented by Congressman E. Kika de la Garza of Texas in the House of Representatives, and President Reagan signed the resolution into law shortly thereafter.



Don participated as a delegate and committee member during the 1985 FFA convention.

"Climbing and overcoming the personal mountain of physical handicaps, disabled rural citizens have provided a moving example of what courage and compassion can accomplish; and I am honored to be a part of FFA's new BRIDGE program," said honorary chairman of the BRIDGE selection committee Peter Myers, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Former USDA Secretary John Block, now president of the National-American Wholesale Grocers' Association, agrees: "Rural handicapped Americans need to know that they are recognized for rising above the limitation of their disabilities to strive and succeed," he said in working with the BRIDGE selection committee.

So don't be surprised if you read about Don Hayden and Mount Rainier this spring. Through the BRIDGE program, you and your chapter can help others climb their mountains. After all, climbing and overcoming mountains is what it's all about—for all of us. •••

Virginia Senator Trible met with Price Grisham, BRIDGE organizer, center, and National Advisor Case to kick off the program.



Getting Involved

There are two ways to participate in the new BRIDGE scholarship program. First, if you are qualified to receive the scholarship, you can apply by requesting a College Scholarship Program application form from the National FFA Organization. Please send your request to C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Executive Secretary, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All applications are due by April 1, 1987.

You can also participate by contributing to the BRIDGE program. The BRIDGE scholarships and chapter awards will be provided from the interest earned on the BRIDGE Endowment Fund.

Any individual or FFA chapter wishing to contribute to the endowment should send a contribution to the National FFA Foundation with the coupon to ensure proper credit.

Please make checks payable to The National FFA Foundation.

☐ **YES, I want to help disabled FFA members.**

☐ Enclosed is a contribution of $ _____: ☐ from my chapter **OR** ☐ from me.

Name (Chapter if chapter gift)

Mailing Address

City State Zip

Mail to: National FFA Foundation P.O. Box 5117, Madison, WI. 53705-0117. Phone: 608-238-4222.

Diversified Farming:



Growing Christmas trees can supplement a farm's income.

Breaking Away From Tradition May Be The Answer To Ag's Bad News

By

Russ Florence

SEVERAL American farmers are breaking new ground in a farming revolution that's causing some producers to think twice before planting another crop of winter wheat. It's challenging farmers to try marketing techniques untapped for two generations.

It's called diversified farming—alternative commodity production—and it's the reason why some once-struggling farmers are whistling all the way back from the strawberry patch.

New commodity substitutes are quickly emerging as a key element in overcoming the farm crisis. Workshops are being held nationwide to advise producers on production, marketing and budgeting for the new commodities.

There isn't one answer to putting farmers back on their feet; there are hundreds of them, and they must start right on the farm. Here's a look at a few new commodities which have already answered the questions many farmers once had about simply staying in business.

Catfish

The demand for farm-raised catfish is expanding rapidly, according to Hugh Purnell, executive vice president of the Catfish Farmers of America. The low-calorie, low-fat, high-protein content of catfish make it the reason catfish farms in the South are reeling in the business.

"Almost 200 million pounds of catfish were sold in 1985," Purnell said, "up from 30 million pounds seven years ago." He predicts that by 1988, the average American will increase his catfish consumption by 167 percent.

Restaurants are the most consistent markets for catfish farmers, and some producers are getting up to $1.50 per pound for the fish they raise. Farmers are also experimenting by stocking private lakes, opening pay-fishing lakes and charging fisherman by the pound of fish caught on the farm.

The overhead cost of beginning catfish farming depends upon a lot of things. Buying land and building ponds is obviously the first step, but farmers willing to revamp water holes into a non-competitive environment for fish are almost ready for business.

The cages used to prevent predators are most effective when they're made of plastic mesh or plastic-coated wire. The meshes are expensive but can last up to six years if they're kept under the water, out of the sunlight.

Perhaps above all, catfish need their oxygen. Extension researchers at Oklahoma's Langston University recommend stocking no more than 1,000 pounds of fish per acre of water; that's about 1,000 fish at the ideal "market" weight of a pound each.

Broccoli

America's health kick of the 80's has helped make broccoli a popular alternative crop. Broccoli consumption has increased 8 percent every year since the mid-1970s.

Rick Squires, a southwest Oklahoma broccoli grower, says he feels there's still plenty of time to start a broccoli operation before the market is flooded.

"The best thing about growing broccoli," Squires said, "is that it's a free enterprise crop; you set your own prices based on supply and demand."

The crop is best marketed when it's grown near a metropolitan area, Squires said. This simplifies transportation and gives the grower an opportunity to find a consistent market.

"What I would recommend for FFA members who are interested in starting a broccoli operation," Squires said, "is to start out small and raise six or seven commodities to sell as a package, to supplement one another."

"You could make it cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage, and in the hot months, you could try sweet corn, bell peppers and squash."

The price farmers are receiving for their broccoli, particularly the fall crops, are good. Squires said the commodity's resistance to extreme weather and its growability in several soil types make yields "pretty decent."

But initial investments can be steep. Oklahoma State University extension vegetable specialist, Dr. Dean McGraw, said to expect to shell out at least $900 per acre from start to finish of production. That's seeding directly, as opposed to the more expensive transplanting method.

McGraw said the crop is best grown in sandy-loam soil and requires a lot of irrigation. It also takes a lot of labor at harvest time, and controlling insects, especially worms, can be demanding.

"It's a high-value, high-risk crop," McGraw said. "But I think it's got a great future as a short-term, small-scale crop."

Christmas Trees

Since its struggling beginning about 20 years ago, the Texas Christmas tree industry has grown through the roof.

About one million Christmas tree seedlings have been planted in Texas each year for the last four years—that compares with about 150,000 seedlings in 1977, according to James Chandler of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Approximately 95 percent of the seedlings planted in the state are Virginia

pines, which grow best in the highly-acidic soils of east Texas.

The choose-n-cut operations developed in the late 1970's are still a popular marketing outlet, but most of the large growers are now penetrating the wholesale market to compete with northern growers.

Such is the case with Tennison Nursery and Christmas Tree Farm near New Summerfield, Texas. B.E. Tennison owns 250 acres of Christmas trees—the largest of its kind in the Long Star State.

Tennison said he plants up to 900 trees per acre—that's one tree every four feet—and loses about 20 percent to disease.

When the trees are three years old, Tennison has them shipped to Amarillo at $365 per train car. He said he receives about $6 per cut tree and $10 for a potted tree. His cost for fertilizer and care averages only $3 per tree.

Tennison said he uses no herbicides on his trees and that each tree is shaped twice before it's cut and stacked on the train.

The Christmas tree industry has been dominated by northern states until recent years. Now, with marketing channels sprouting up all over the country, Christmas tree growing could be an industry with a future for many more farmers.

Ostriches

After 30 years of raising cattle, wheat and alfalfa on their northwest Oklahoma farm, Pete and Donnie Nutter decided it was time for a change.

That's why they cleared out a few cattle lots to make way for their new 9-foot tall, 400-pound poultry enterprise: ostriches.

The idea hatched last spring when Donnie bought two adult females—they are actually called "hens"—and a rooster from a farmer in Lanton, Oklahoma, and shipped them to his farm.

There, they started from scratch. Donnie and his brother, Pete, read about the exotic birds in encyclopedias and in magazine articles. They applied knowledge gained from raising chickens. But mostly, they learned from trial and error.

The birds require little care after they are a couple of months old. And the necessary feed and facilities are handily found on almost every small farm.

Ostriches require a high-protein diet, found in freshly cut alfalfa, and can be housed in a standard shed or pen big enough to hold them.

The real challenge, as farmers are finding out with a lot of commodities today, is finding a concurrent market.

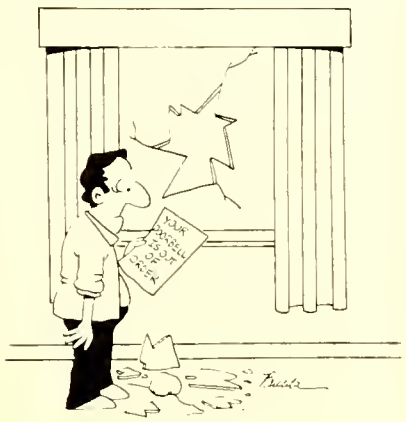
The potential is there: a handful of people are starting to buy the birds for both production and novelty purposes. The prices range from $500 for a three-month-old bird to about $2,800 for a full-grown female. And an incubative egg takes from 42 to 45 days to hatch.

An ostrich's red meat, taken mainly from the drumstick and neck, sells for around $13 a plate in a few restaurants.

The price of a three-pound ostrich egg: about $25. Pete said several arts and craftsmen are buying the eggs to paint for resale. And an average hen will lay a egg every other day for up to four months per year.

The soft feathers of an ostrich are as useful for home decorating ideas as the feathers homemakers use from dozens of other birds.

And any serious western wear shopper knows that a pair of ostrich skin boots go anywhere from $300 to $700 at most major retail stores. •••



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News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

This time of year is when reports come in about chapter officer team retreats or planning sessions to gear up for the new school year. Maybe there is an idea or two here for your chapter.

N-N-N

Officers from the *Calaveras,* CA, Chapter chose to ride horses up into a cow camp and stayed at a cabin there for the planning retreat. One goal was to develop teamwork.

N-N-N

The *Baraboo,* WI, Chapter leaders established this concise set of goals: become better leaders; increase public relations; raise money by holding a hog raffle, by selling the tractor we are fixing up, by selling rat bait, pizza and fire extinguishers; get girls into our chapter; win state and national awards for the chapter; improve our judging activities; buy a computer; and provide recreational activities.

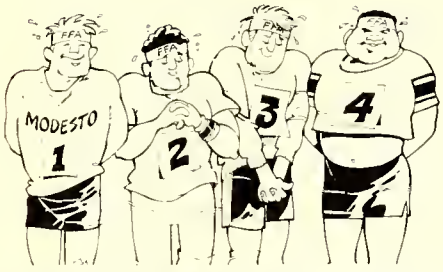
N-N-N

The *Chowchilla,* CA, held their annual officer retreat late in August in a log cabin in Yosemite National Park.

N-N-N

Omro, WI, Alumni helped the chapter officers conduct a leadership training camping outing.

N-N-N



Guys in the *Modesto,* CA, Chapter choose a sweathog of the year in contrast with the chapter sweetheart contest.

N-N-N

Salem, IL, Chapter had a fall social at the home of Alan and Theresa Chitwood—a weiner roast, tug-of-war across the narrow neck of the farm pond, sack races and football.

N-N-N

An apple cider booth at the Harvest Festival was operated by the *Chelan,* WA, FFA. They started cooking early Saturday morning, sold cider by the cup for 50 cents or $3 per gallon.

N-N-N

Work force for the Roseburg Ram Sale were members of the *Glide,* OR, Chapter. Members had to move the rams from pens into various sorting pens and help get consignments ready to sell.

N-N-N

Killingly, CT, Chapter officers attended a leadership workshop hosted by the state association.

The chapter bimonthly newsletter of the *Merced,* CA, Chapter serves as an extra communication link with members, parents and faculty. It reports week-to-week events and changes that do not appear in the Program of Activities.

N-N-N

Smithville, OH, advertised their corn crop for sale as corn silage to local farmers.

N-N-N

Union, OR, held a wood raffle to raise money to help members buy new FFA jackets.

N-N-N



Buffalo, MO, has been cleaning up at local shows this season, according to **Julie Turner,** reporter.

N-N-N

Eisenhower Junior Chapter in Florida sponsored a safety break at the rest area along Interstate 75 on September 1. FFA served coffee and soft drinks provided by local businesses to about 350 travelers.

N-N-N

Central Heights, KS, took time to go see the Kansas City Royals play Boston this summer.

N-N-N

Sutherlin, OR, is planning to start a chapter newsletter. There are many being published these days—often on computers, mailed to the homes of the members for their family to read as well.

N-N-N

Jennifer McKee, Pat Cole and **Brenda Winkler** represented the *Southwestern Heights,* KS, FFA at the dedication of a sculpture in honor of the American Farmer. Ceremonies were on Labor Day at the Agriculture Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs. FFA members were part of a ceremony to post colors and massing of the state flags during the dedication.

N-N-N

FFA officers of *Evening Shade,* AR, hosted an officer training program on correct parliamentary procedure for other school leaders.

N-N-N

El Paso, TX, back-to-school swim party and snack bash included FFA members, Young Farmers and FFA Alumni. The most popular dive was the patented "Ysleta FFA bellyflop!"

The judging team from *Knox Central,* KY, got to hear the Oak Ridge Boys in concert while they were at the state fair for a contest.

N-N-N

A fund raising activity for *Lyons-Decatur,* NE, is a soup supper.

N-N-N

Cambridge, NE, holds their annual banquet with the FBLA.

N-N-N

Every Wednesday during the summer, members of the *Allentown,* NJ, Chapter had work days for all students to come in to the school and help maintain the building and grounds.

N-N-N

Watsonville, CA, members joined other local apple growers to pick apples from their trees to send to other apple growers in northern California who had to strip their trees of fruit in order to stop the apple maggot invasion. At least this way, the northern growers will have apples for their families.

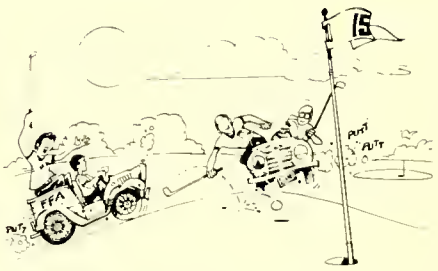
N-N-N

Sarasota Senior Chapter of Florida recently sent in their check to fulfill their pledge to the Statue of Liberty campaign.

N-N-N

FFA members are providing some of the labor to keep up a community garden in Westerville, OH. *Fairbanks* FFA operates the garden as a BOAC project. The community provides the labor and the plants. Then all foods that are harvested are sent to food pantries to help those in need.

N-N-N



Genoa, OH, FFA members played putt-putt golf for recreation after the July meeting, according to Reporter **Debbie Luebke.**

N-N-N

Time to put the bug in the ear of some states who are not often heard about in Scoop. Any member or officer or Alumni or parent can take up this challenge for Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Delaware, New York or Pennsylvania. Let's have some newsworthy items from these states.

Neil Mooers

(Continued from Page 22)

Learning the Trade

Neil acquired his forestry expertise from two sources. Growing up, he worked beside his father who was a fish and game district chief for ten years before going into private forest management for the past seven years.

He also attended high school at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy where he concentrated his studies in forest management within the agriculture program. Along with tree identification, woodland management, and the sciences, safety habits were taught extensively at Coe-Brown and were strictly enforced by forestry instuctor Paul Davis.

Winner of the eastern region forestry proficiency award in 1984, Neil has been active in FFA in many ways. He participated on state-winning parliamentary procedure teams, attended the national BOAC conference in 1983, and recieved his American Farmer degree at this year's 59th national FFA convention. Neil now helps train members for forestry judging teams and other contests.

He bought 15 acres of land near his parents' home recently, and plans to build a house soon. He is including plans for construction of a mechanics shop to help diversify his career. The Mooers already have a chain saw parts shop, run mainly by Dan, to supplement the family business income.

Neil says his philosophy of the forest management business is one of honesty: get the landowner involved in the process, cut only those trees that should be cut, clean up the area you've harvested, make sure the wildlife will benefit, and the good impression that you leave will supply you with customers far into the future. •••



Neil Mooers, Sr., left, discusses his son's future with FFA advisor Bruce Farr. Mr. Farr helped the Mooers' plan the family's 3-way partnership.



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CV	VEST: SIZE		14.95	
CW	WALLET		2.95	
CAP-2A	MESH CAP		3.95	
CAP-2	SOLID CAP		3.95	

ADD: Shipping and Handling Charge
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$ 5.01 to 25.00 Add $2.00 Add $3.50
$25.01 to 50.00 Add $2.25 Over 100.00 Add $4.00

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4% Sales Tax if Virginia Chapter _____
TOTAL _____

The Calming Effects of Hydroplane Racing

By Jane Paul

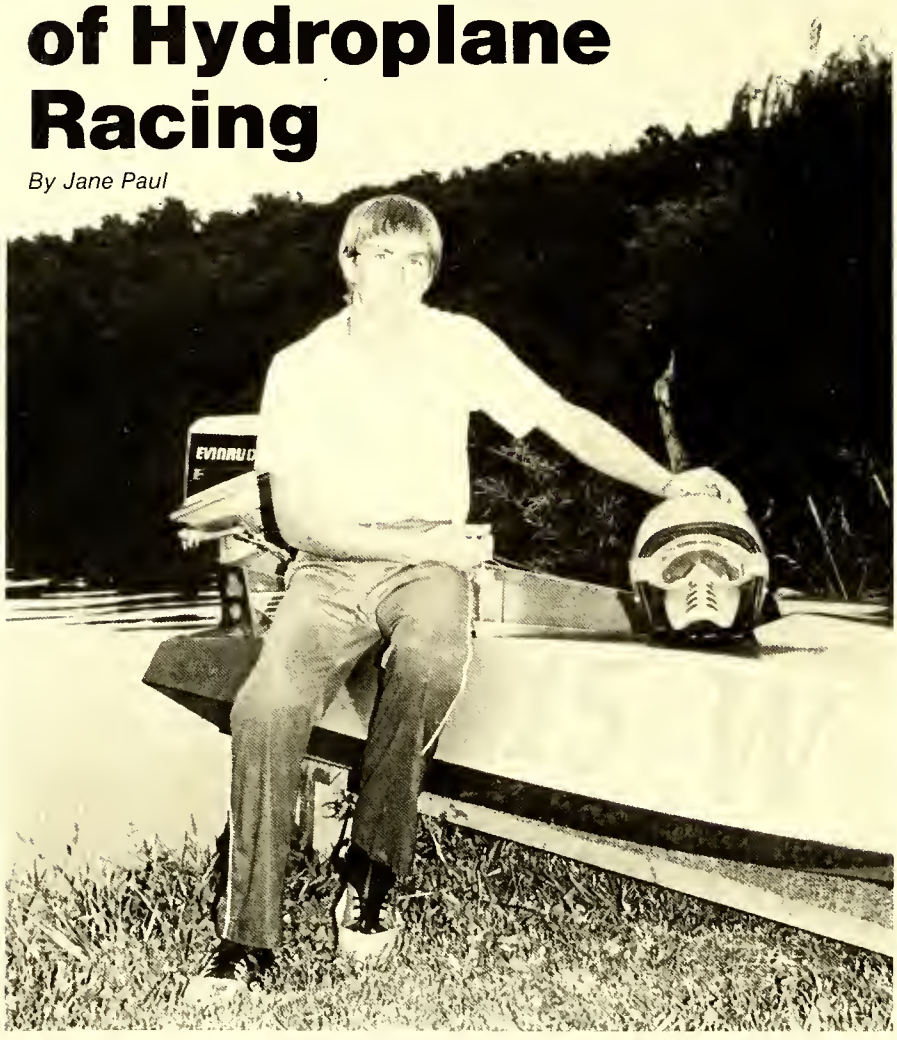


Photo by Author

STEVE Hoffmann skims the surface of the lake at 50 miles per hour in his marine mahogany hydroplane boat. As he gains on the boat ahead of him, it crosses in his path, leaving a wake of ripples. Steve leans out over the front of his 10-foot-long boat, literally pushing it to the surface of the water as it begins to bounce over the ripples.

For two to five minutes, depending on the length of the race, every ounce of strength and every shred of attention must be focused on the task at hand. While the pressure is intense, 18-year-old Steve says one of the reasons he competes in regional, state and national hydroplane boat races is to relieve stress—the stress of farming.

"It's important to learn to play," says Steve, a Whitewater, Wisconsin, FFA member. "When you come home from a weekend of racing, you're more tired than a weekend of working on the farm, but it's good to get away from the farm and not have to worry about it. It's given us a way to relieve some of the stress of farming."

John and Nancy Hoffmann, Steve's parents, have long encouraged their five sons to find a way to escape from the pressure of farming or their agribusiness careers. Learning to "get away from it all" is as important a life skill as learning to lead a meeting, speak in front of others, repair motors or care for a herd of beef cows, they say.

Steve agrees. He finds that, while the rigors of racings can be exhausting in itself, he returned to his family's 1,000-acre soybean, corn and hog operation with renewed vigor for farming.

Steve began hydroplane boat racing—called stock outboard boat racing by some—when he was 15 years old. He and his dad, who had raced in his youth, began helping a 60-year-old friend who was getting back into racing.

"I never thought I would get to do the racing," Steve recalls. "I was just having fun going to the races and helping out.

"The first time I was ever in a race boat was the day before my first race," he adds. "There were people who were experienced boat racers there and they told me what to do. That was on smooth water. In the race, everything was different. The water is choppy and there are a lot of boats."

Now, Steve competes in 12 or more races a year, including national races in Michigan, Florida and Ohio. He travels with three boats, customarily competing in the A-stock hydro, the A-stock runabout and the 15-SS (superstock) hydro classes. He plans to start competing in the 25-modified hydro class soon.

Steve admits he finds boat racing challenging both physically, mentally and emotionally.

"You have to understand aerodynamics. It takes a lot of 'body language'," Steve says, using the jargon used by boat racers to describe the way they manipulate the boat with their body weight. "Being a small object, you've got to push the boat where you want it to go. Like snowmobiles and motorcycles, you've got to move so it turns and moves better. You have to keep it planing the best way. After a wave, you push the front down to meet the wave so it doesn't bounce, and on corners, you've got to lean to the inside. You go into the corner flat, and you've got to keep the fin down in the water."

While he has learned the intracacies of boat racing, Steve maintains an even more important lesson he has honed is sportsmanship, an attitude which shares its roots in his FFA and family expereiences.

"When you're racing, you learn you can get along with different people and can compete against them in a friendly way," Steve says. "I learned about that through the judging and other contests in FFA. You can compete against people and they can still be your friends. It's not a grudge-type of competing."

On the water is not the only place in which Steve sees competition. He is an officer of the Whitewater High School FFA Chapter, and he has participated in soil, livestock and meat judging contests. In addition, Steve competes with his registered Simmental heifers and Simmental-cross steers. In 1985, his 3/4 Simmental heifer was named grand champion female at his county fair. With beef production as his SOEP project, Steve has anywhere from 9 to 13 animals, depending on the time of year.

Looking ahead, Steve has several goals he hopes to accomplish. He plans to continue hydroplane racing, hoping to win a national championship. He has won several regional races and maintains a national championship is not an unrealistic goal since he now regularly competes with Wisconsin's seven national champions, often placing third or fourth.

Beyond racing, though, Steve plans to begin college in the fall of 1987, exploring the fields of agricultural engineering, biotechnology or genetics. Whichever direction he pursues, his farm and FFA background have convinced him he wants to remain in some phase of agriculture and science. •••

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The Science of Maple Syrup

When the sap starts running, these FFA members are waiting with lots of experience and some high technology.

WHEN you live in the number one maple syrup producing county in Vermont—which produces more syrup than any other state in the country—you're bound to get involved with syrup production in a big way.

The members of the Enosburg FFA Chapter know how to produce top-quality maple syrup. Mention "Log Cabin" to this group, and they just laugh at you. They're proud of their high standards and the purity of their product.

Something Old, Something New

Inside one-gallon cans, which carry brightly colored New England winter scenes on them, is syrup that is a product of crossing longstanding New England tradition with a whole lot of new technology. It's that new technology that has many veteran syrup producers eyeing the chapter's new facilities.

The agriculture department at Enosburg Area Vocational Center received a $20,000 Program Improvement Grant for Vocational Education from the state of Vermont in 1983. "The purpose of the grant was to bring new technologies into the school and that would be used by the community," explained Sarah Downes, chapter advisor.

The Process

Maple sugar is made by collecting large amounts of sap from maple trees and boiling it continuously over extreme heat until the correct percentage of water has evaporated, leaving the dense, sweet, syrup. It takes 41 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

With the grant money in hand, instructor Charles Daigle and his forestry class, with some help from the ag production class, built the 18-foot by 24-foot sugar house in 1984. In it they placed a 5-foot by 14-foot evaporator where the sap is boiled into syrup. Wood cut in the off-season by the forestry class is used as fuel for the evaporator.

Outside, the class set up an elaborate pipeline system to transport the sap running out of the 1,750 trees on their 21 acres of leased land, or, "sugar bush."

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Mark Miles, above, checks a tap in front of the sugar shack built and maintained by the students. A stretch of pipeline gets shortened at right by, left to right, Jeff Westcom, Howard Devso, Mike Garrow, Jason Vaillancourt, Tom Pattee and Mark.

Hunting King Cottontail





Photos by Author

The prolific and widespread cottontail rabbit is the No. 1 game animal.

By Russell Tinsley

THE cottontail rabbit is available in more places in larger numbers than any other North American game animal. It also is prolific, nature's answer to the computer. Seasons are liberal. In fact, most western states, have no closed season or bag limit.

There is something else, too. The cottontail is fun to hunt and delicious to eat. All things considered, it is no mystery why the rabbit heads FFA members' most-hunted list.

But there is a difference between hunting and eating, which means that not everyone brings home the game. The cottontail can act downright dumb at times, but once it has been pressured, innate survival instincts take over. Also, on into the winter, natural causes take their toll and there are fewer rabbits to hunt and the survivors are more suspicious and spooky.

This is nature's way. Virtually every predator, winged and furred, preys upon this ubiquitous species. This keeps the rabbits hopping and reproducing. The cottontail has to depend on the fact that it can breed faster than predators can deplete its ranks.

At the same time, though, the most prolific species that are part of the food chain are short-lived. This way the creatures won't overpopulate the habitat if predation is inadequate to control their numbers, which explains why cottontails are cyclic, plentiful one year, perhaps many less the next. There is only a small carryover of rabbits from one year to another, even if the bunnies are not hunted. But when coditions are favorable, it doesn't take rabbits long to bounce back. There is a population explosion. Thus, liberal seasons and bag limits are no threat to the bunny's future well-being.

Cottontails can be hunted in a variety of ways. While the yelp of a beagle hound on a hot bunny track adds another dimension to this fascinating sport, the truth is, most rabbit hunting is a one-on-one proposition, hunter versus cottontail, and it takes ingenuity and skill to put meat on the dinner table.

Bunnies are most active early and late in the day, along with their nocturnal prowlings. When the sun is up, however, they are more likely to be holding tight to thick cover which gives them a sense of security. A hawk hovering overhead is just waiting for one to make a mistake.

If you've done much rabbit hunting you perhaps have wondered why some days the rabbits are out and about, lots of them, in early morning, but that afternoon, near sundown, they are conspicuous by their absence—or it can be the other way around. Like all nocturnal wildlife, the cottontail is a creature of the moon (man, being diurnal, is influenced by the sun). If the moon is visible in the morning, that's when the rabbits normally will be most active, and the same is true of late afternoon. The hunter who is aware of the moon phase improves his chances.

But even with the right conditions you have to be hunting the right places. Cottontails are not everywhere. Successful rabbit hunting is being able to identify quality cottontail habitat. Cover is more important than food because rabbits eat such a diversity of foods, from grasses to weeds and tree bark, hunger is seldom severe.

Rabbits won't always frequent the same places each day. Perhaps one sunny, cold winter afternoon you will find them along a grown-up fence row, but the next day there is a weather change and hunting the fence row gets you nothing but exercise. It is, then, simply a matter of prospecting different cover until you determine where the animals might be at any given point in time, although there won't be much movement in distance. A cottontail lives its entire brief life in a small area, probably less than two acres.

Maybe you will find them in brushpiles, cover so dense you actually must kick it to spook them into the open. Or the rabbits might be hunched in the grass and weeds of a reclaimed field, or in tall grass that's grown around and under farm implements, or berry thickets, squatty bushes, or whatever. The type of cover will vary with the region and terrain and land practices—farm or ranch—and the hunter assembles a "mental file" or where he found bunnies and when. With rabbit hunting, like anything, you learn by doing, being curious and observant.

The tendency is to hunt too fast. The hurry-up hunter walks right by many rabbits he never sees, and when he does get a shot, it is at a running target that's zigging and zagging. The methodical hunter, on the other hand, examines each patch of cover before moving on to the next. A rabbit, especially one taking

(Continued on Page 32)

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Photo by Sarah Downes

The heat is so intense near the evaporator that the students can't carry change in their pockets because the coins burn their legs.

Maple Syrup

(Continued from Page 30)

The pipeline connects to a 2,500-gallon holding tank where they draw off as much sap as they need inside the sugar house. A vacuum pump, located in the sugar house, pulls the sap through the pipeline system. This method produces 30-40 percent more sap per tree than the old technique of letting the sap drip into a bucket that hung on the tree.

The class decided they would do a bit of their own consumer testing, and purchased three different types of plastic pipe to see which one performed the best. It was a test monitored closely by other local producers, according to Downes.

Since the sugar house has been operating, the Enosburg Chapter has produced as high as 720 gallons of syrup in one year. They sell 45-50 gallons of the Vermont Department of Agriculture inspected syrup in the one-gallon metal cans at $21 per gallon. The rest is sold wholesale to a large maple syrup marketer.

The profits of their labor have gone to buy needed items such as a new truck, a tractor, dump cart and a $600 college scholarship for a graduating senior in the program. •••

Cottontail

((Continued from Page 31)

a mid-day siesta, won't run unless absolutely necessary, preferring to remain motionless and use its natural camouflage to best advantage. Instinct tells it that once flushed from its sanctuary, it is fair game for any hungry predator.

There also is another influence on rabbit behavior that man never will totally understand and that is weather, which dictates whether cottontails will be out and about or hiding in thick cover. A clear, crisp winter day is good, but one that is overcast seems to be better. Right after a snowfall they usually will be prowling for food and they are easier to see against the white backdrop. Another good time is just before a cold front, but once the front arrives, huffing and puffy, hunting will be poor for a day or two. All game animals dislike a gusty wind. It negates their defense system. In a high wind you almost can kick a bunny and it won't budge.

Most rabbit hunters prefer to use shotguns for both productivity and safety, since some hunting is near habitation, maybe farm buildings. When a rabbit squirts out of hiding, the bouncing bundle of fur is fleeing full speed, the bobbing white tail winking through the undergrowth. The target is elusive and no cinch even with a scattergun. Since the rabbit usually is going away when you see it, you want a gun that will reach on out there. While it is heavier to carry around, I prefer the firepower of a 12 gauge, full choke, loaded with No. 6 shotshells.

But given my druthers, I would rather hunt rabbits with a scoped .22 rimfire rifle and Long Rifle cartridges, if is is safe to use a rifle in the area. The .22 rimfire might not make a lot of noise, but the bullet still travels a long, long way. Never compromise on safety.

This hunting involves a different technique, more like deer hunting. To rephrase a popular telephone company jingle, you let your eyes do the walking. You are hunting stationary targets, meaning you need to see the rabbit before it sees you and scampers into the nearest escape cover (even when feeding a rabbit won't be far from a hiding place). Often the rabbit you see will be out of range and you'll have to stalk closer for a shot. And if rabbits are not in the open you have to examine each bit of cover, hoping to see something such as the glint of an eye or twitch of an ear that will give a hiding bunny away.

True, you might not get as many rabbits this way as you would hunting with a shotgun. But who keeps count? The success of a hunt is not to be judged solely on how much game is brought home. The fun and memories are what count. And rabbit hunting, anyway you go about it, has its fair share of both. •••

FFA in Action

Constitutional Tree Planting Ceremony



Members from the Frederick County, Maryland, FFA Chapter and their advisor, Mr. Carroll Shry, attended a tree planting ceremony to help mark the Bicentennial of the Constitution in Washinton, D.C. on September 17. Former first lady Mrs. Lyndon Johnson and Warren Burger, former Chief Justice of the United States, planted the first tree in Constitution Gardens between the Capitol and the Washington Monument.



Mrs. Ladybird Johnson took time to visit with the Frederick County FFA members and Mr. Shry after the historic tree planting ceremony. •••

FFA Builds Respect

To Terry Cramer the FFA means respect "more than anything else.

"It means respect for others and for others to respect me," he said, working hard to form each word. Respect is important to this 19-year-old who graduated from Frederick High School, Maryland, last spring. Terry has suffered from cerebral palsy since birth.

He has earned respect from his teachers, classmates and fellow FFA members for his determination to make it through high school despite the limb-wrenching lack of muscle control caused by his disease. His willing spirit was symbolized by his marching with the rest of the class to receive his diploma. He also received a standing ovation.

"Terry is close to me and many others, not because of his handicap, but because of his willingness to do things," said Ed Mayne, Terry's horticulture teacher and FFA advisor at Frederick High.

Terry worked at selling flowers in the school's greenhouse, helped other special education students as an aide in biology class, offered support and inspiration to the football team and attended the prom.

"This year Terry earned his Chapter Farmer degree and gave a 20-minute speech on the importance of the FFA to him."

He attended the Maryland FFA Convention in Hagerstown. It was the first time he stayed overnight away from his Rocky Springs home.

Horticulture was one of Terry's favorite classes in Frederick High's vocational agriculture program. "It had sort of a homey atmosphere," he said. "In more academic classes everything is more tense."

He liked working with plants enough to earn a proficiency award.

During his junior and senior years, Terry worked in the nursery school operated by the school's home economics department.

"I was one of the few guys who took the class, so I was a role model for the kids in that kind of job," Terry said. "And they could also benefit from me by learning about others who are different and have handicaps."*(By Mike Clem, Reprinted from* The Frederick News Post) •••

Fired Up!

Jackie Farr is a senior in Alcorn Central, Mississippi, FFA. He has served the chapter as sentinel and president and has served as federation sentinel. This year he is safety committee chairman. Here's what the *Daily Corinthian* had to say about this FFA leader in an article by Mike McEwen, staff writer.

"The efforts of a local man here have fired up support for a volunteer fire department.

"Jackie Farr's interest in establishing the volunteer fire fighting organization spread quickly through this Alcorn County community.

"The idea for a Jacinto Volunteer Fire Department was fostered about nine months ago by Farr. He had served as a volunteer fireman on the nearby Glen Fire Department and he knew there was a need for such an organization in his town.

"Community leaders liked Farr's plan and eventually formed a board to oversee the construction of fire station.

"Residents hope to have the fire house completed and one fire truck equipped and ready to fight blazes by the end of the year." •••

Cutter Champion



Grant Smith, a member of the Melbourne, Arkansas, Chapter, competed in some stiff competition this past summer. The highlight of a summer of hard work, though, came at the American Junior Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show held in August in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Grant, representing the state of Arkansas, was awarded a silver belt buckle as 1986 Reserve World AJQHA Champion Youth Cutter for his final score of 221.5. •••

(Continued on Page 34)

(Pick up ACTION from Page 33)

A Fitting Demonstration

The Kuna, Idaho, FFA held a fitting and showing demonstration this summer for the members who wanted to learn how to fit and show their own fair animals.

There were beef steers, pigs, sheep, and dairy cattle at the demonstration and the members learned a lot on how to work their fair animals.

The brother-and-sister team of Wendy and Brian Reynolds trimmed and set up a beef steer while Lori Summerall clipped and cleaned a fair sheep. A trio of Mark Boyer, Greg Curtis and John VanNortwick taught the members how to show a fair pig. Katrina Stroebel, with help from some members, trimmed a dairy heifer and explained how to lead and show a dairy animal.*(Mike Lane)* •••

Birds on the Loose

The West Muskingum, Ohio, FFA in cooperation with four local farmers released 130 Bob White quail. We are trying to improve the Bob White quail population in Muskingum County which was devastated by the severe winters of 1977-78 and still has not recovered.

We are using the call-back bird method which is used by many Southern State Division of Wildlife personnel. The call-back bird method involves building a call-back bird pen. This is a pen you keep one bird in, called the call-back bird. Then we build a larger pen about 5-feet by 5-feet made with 2-inch by 4-inch wire. This is so the birds can get in for shelter and away from the predators. Then we place the call-back bird pen in the larger pen. The call-back bird calls all the other birds back for the night. For two or three weeks we put water and grain in both pens for the quail. After that time is up, we will release the call-back bird. We will also quit putting grain in the pens. Hopefully, the quail have adjusted to their new home.*(Bob Bridwell)* •••

A Mountain Invitational

The chapter members and advisors of the Ruby Mountain FFA in Elko, Nevada, worked long and hard to make the first annual Invitational Livestock Show and Sale a success. And a huge success it was.

On August 1 we held a showing and fitting demonstration for all FFA and 4-H members. The beef fitting was done by John and Barbara Scrabo, local ranchers and Angus breeders. They showed members how to clip and fit a steer. Laural Etchegary from Eureka demonstrated how to clip and card a lamb. Ed Hamer from Yearington showed members how to show and fit a hog. Mr. Hamer also served as our judge.

FFA members were at the livestock barns bright and early the next morning, Saturday, August 2, to wash market animals for the sale.

The average sale price on the eight market rams was 90 cents per pound; on the four hogs, 98 cents; and on the steers, 87 cents. •••

Muddy Water

Tri County, Nebraska, FFA Chapter is always looking for something new and unusual to involve members and the community.

This year in conjunction with the July 4 community celebration the chapter assisted the Jaycees with a Mud Volleyball Tournament.

Members looked forward to splashing in the mud while digging the pits and filling them with water. The recreational committee had no problem finding volunteers to man the clean-off hoses for the teams as they slipped out of the pits after each match.

There were ten teams entered in the tournament that waded through the competition. A large crowd was on hand to cheer and sometimes jeer on their favorite team.

Next year the chapter hopes to involve some of the local businesses by sponsoring teams in the tournament. *(From the 1986 National Chapter application)* •••



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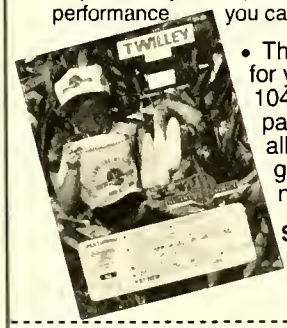
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Safety Brand

The Springer, Oklahoma, FFA conducted a tractor safety program as outlined in the Brand 'Em To Save A Life tractor safety campaign. The project had 100 percent involvement by chapter members. They visited 176 farms where they inspected and placed safety decals on 210 tractors. *(From the National Chapter application.)* •••

More Hay Lift Stories

In the last issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*, there was a story about Operation Hay Lift and how chapters got involved.

From around the nation came more stories about FFA, FFA Alumni and Young Farmers who pitched in to help.

Ten FFA members and one advisor, along with area farmers who donated hay, helped load hay on August 4 and 8 at the local railroad yard in Concordia, Kansas. The six railcars of hay were sent to Forest Park, Georgia.

Members of the Newkirk, Oklahoma, FFA hauled over 400 bales of hay to be shipped to the South according to Heather Pratt, Chapter Reporter.



Closing the door on the last of nine boxcars of hay to be sent to South Carolina FFA members. Looking on as Scottsburg, Indiana, FFA member Bobby Craig closes the door are members of the James F. Brynes FFA Chapter, Scottsburg FFA members, Scott County Young Farmers and members of the Henryville Youth Camp.



The hay shipped from Wauseon, Ohio, FFA (and reported in the last issue of the magazine) arrived in Georgia and was unloaded by Franklin County, Georgia, members and area farmers.

Madera, California, FFA joined the effort too. Madera FFA President Roy Morris arranged for the delivery of more than 22 tons of oat hay that was grown by the chapter. The Southern Pacific Railroad agreed to ship the hay by boxcar free of charge.

Over the summer, the Allentown, New Jersey, Chapter held a hay drive. Officers, Alumni and members helped load up 500 bales for the Manning, South Carolina, Chapter. A truck was provided by Dixon Motor Freight. •••

(Continued on Page 36)



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 (Pick up the ACTION from Page 35)

His Own Truck



Adam Stevenson, seated at the wheel, a 15-year-old FFA member from Bonifay, Florida, was absolutely shocked when his name was called to win a 1986 Nissan truck at the recent State FFA Convention in Orlando. This is the second year that Nissan Motor Corporation and the Orlando area Nissan dealers cooperated in sponsoring the truck for the exciting drawing conducted by the Florida FFA Alumni Association. Alumni Council members observe as Al Allaband, Nissan Motor Corporation presents the key to Adam. •••

Two For Safety

Todd Otey and Brian Olson of the Alex, Oklahoma, Chapter attended a Youth Safety Seminar, sponsored by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Organization.

Participants took part in workshops on safe driving techniques, water safety, first-aid and fire safety, drug and alcohol safety and hunting safety.

In the safe-driving techniques workshop, they were permitted to drive a motor vehicle through a prescribed course. Not only did they learn to safely drive a car, but also how fast accidents can happen. Life-saving techniques were presented and taught in the first-aid workshop as well as CPR.

Both Alex FFA members were sponsored locally by the Grady County Farm Bureau Women's Organization. This organization awards two scholarships per county to attend this seminar.*(Callie Thurston, Reporter)*

Panel Production

From 6,000 feet of steel tubing and five spools of wire, the Concordia, Kansas, FFA Chapter built 50 panels for the Cloud County Fair Board Association.

The 12-foot panels were rotated on an assembly line where each member had a different job which varied from tacking the panels together in a jig to grinding the finished product.

The panels are to be used as an arena for the horse show, and for the cow calf classic, held each year as a part of the county fair.

The total value of the panels was $2,500 and the chapter earned $500. The fair board saved $1,000 by letting the FFA build the panels instead of purchasing them already made.

Building the panels took a lot of time and effort, but the members enjoyed using their skills that they had learned in class to make something for the community that would be useful for many years. •••

Genoa Chapters Exchange Students

The Genoa, Ohio, FFA Chapter and the Genoa, Nebraska, FFA Chapter organized an exchange. October 8, four students from Genoa, Ohio, flew to Genoa, Nebraska, to observe agriculture in the West. October 15, the Ohio chapter welcomed students from Nebraska.

While the Ohio students were in Nebraska, part of their duties included teaching a lesson about our area agriculture and other interests.

Pam Bench presented a lesson on the vegetable crops grown here. Tim Myers explained our state and local FFA activities and fund raisers. Bruce Traver discussed general farm and livestock operations in Ottawa County. Kim Bringe explained the importance of our port facilities and Lake Erie.

While the students were in Nebraska, they stayed with local families and were a part of local farm operations. •••

Head for the Mountains

In July, six officers of the Antelope FFA in Arizona and our advisor climbed into the school van and headed for the mountains. Our objective was to build the foundation for the chapter, while building friendship between us.

The night we arrived we had a vespers session conducted by Greg Stewart and past state President Debbie Nebone.

In one of our sessions we each learned ways of communication. We learned how important communication is in our chapter. During the communication session we drew topics and phrases out of a hat. We had to react immediately to the topic or phrase we drew. This isn't always easy to do. It made us better able to react to situations.

One of the highlights of Saturday (our free day) was catching the crayfish from the lake. We all got a piece of fishing line and tied a piece of cold bacon to one end of it. Then we would toss it out in the rocks and wait for a crayfish to grab hold. The most interesting part of the crayfish is eating them. A few of us had never tasted them before, and it was quite an experience when we were told that everyone had to take a bite.

Another highlight was seeing a bear right outside our window eating out of our trash can. We made a trap so we would know when the bear came. We tied some fishing line onto the lid of the trash can and ran it up to our rooms. We then tied some cans to the end of the string and hung it from our roof, so when the bear knocked off the lid the cans would hit the floor and wake us up.

During the goal-setting session, "It's a long hard road," we went over goals for ourselves, the officers and our chapter. This was a fun, but hard session to do.

Besides having fun, as you can see, our officer team has grown to know each other in many ways. We can work as a team and accomplish our goals. We learned to communicate among ourselves.*(From Antelope FFA Newsletter, Shanna Forrester, Editor)* •••

Rolling It In



For eight years, the Bushell-Prairie City, Illinois, FFA has sponsored a Tire-A-Thon and donated a total of approximately $4,000. In other years it was given to the Heart Fund. This year it was given to a local family to help with the cost of a kidney transplant. FFA members rolled a tire 32 miles on February 15, 1986, and collected $315 for the fund. Local police served as escorts. *(From the National Chapter application)* •••

Cow Patty Bingo

The Happy, Texas, FFA Chapter held two unique fund-raisers during the summer. The first was a miniature tractor obstacle course held during the county jamboree on the July 4 weekend. The course was a success with over 100 kids riding around the course on pedal tractors provided by local implement dealers.

The second was held at the community reunion and rodeo. This was "cow patty bingo." Cow patty bingo is played by marking off an area, 10 square yards, with string and enclosing the area with panels. We then sold tickets for $5 for

each square. There were 100 squares (1 square yard each). A show steer was then led into the ring. Whichever square the steer puts a patty on is the winner. We gave $150 away as the prize. This left us $350 but the winner donated all the winnings back to the chapter.*(Chris Cogburn, President)* •••

Motivational Mixture

The Cleburne, Texas, Chapter kicked off the new school year with a get-acquainted mixer. The mixer was held in late August and provided a time for Chapter Farmers and incoming members and their parents to meet and introduce themselves.

A slide presentation following a speech by our state and area officers provided an excellent motivational experience for old and new members alike.

The mixer provided a good start and we look forward to the rest of the year.*(Chris Britton, Reporter)* •••

Scholarship Testimony

My senior year in high school I was elected FFA president following in the steps of my two older brothers. During the year I was also serving as the student body president of Porterville High School. I continued my FFA activities in judging contests and I received my fourth gold award in project competition.

I am writing to explain an idea which I developed for our local Porterville Fair.

With two brothers in college and preparing to go there myself, I realized the importance of an Agricultural Scholarship Fund for FFA students.

What I did was to solicit bids per pound for my lamb from members of the community. By the beginning of the auction I had raised $36.50 per pound for my market lamb which weighed 90 pounds.

As the auction started, Mr. Phillip Brown, my advisor and also an auctioneer, announced what was happening.

After that, I gained another $14.50 per pound for a total sale price of $51 per pound or $4,590 for an FFA scholarship fund.

The fund was set up for both high schools in Porterville. This will be a perpetual scholarship fund which will hopefully build as the FFA does. *(Tim W. Albers)*

Alumni Box Supper

The Hartville, Missouri, Alumni Affiliate held an old-fashioined box supper. Proceeds from the evening will go towards buying a computer for the vo-ag department.

Many FFA members, as well as Hartville citizens participated in this event making it a huge success.

An evening of entertainment was provided by Kountry Kin, a local country western band.

After the boxes were auctioned off, and everyone had enjoyed a delicious meal, prizes were then given for the man with the dirtiest feet, the most henpecked husband, most lovesick couple, prettiest girl, prettiest box and the worst housekeeper. A money cake was also auctioned. *(Chris Gibbs, Chapter Reporter)* •••

A Safety Week

The Anthony Wayne, Ohio, Chapter observed safety week during September.

All through the week announcements were on the school public address system talking about drinking and driving, home safety and safety with vehicles.

Two signs were put up on Airport Highway and Route 20A to alert people on farm safety and to be careful whenever operating a motor vehicle.

On the Cable Network, there were announcements of safety week.

Three members gave presentations to the middle school about moped and bicycle safety.

On Saturday, September 13, FFA members and advisors went out to local farmers and gave them bumper stickers and packets about farm safety. •••

Santa's Helpers



The Paducah, Kentucky, Chapter at Reidland High, takes pride in assisting others who are in need.

The chapter sponsors a children's Christmas party for underprivileged children in the kindergarten to the second grade. Santa Claus, played by an FFA member, distributes gifts to those who are present. Hot dogs, cold drinks, potato chips and cookies are served. Each FFA member adopted an "angel," a child who was underprivileged. Seventy angels from kindergarten-second grade were involved in the party. The FFA members purchased a $5 gift of clothing, toys or other items for the child. *(From the National Chapter application)* •••

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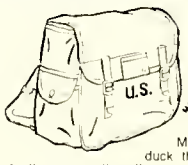
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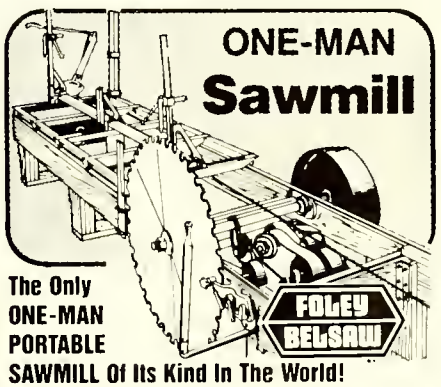
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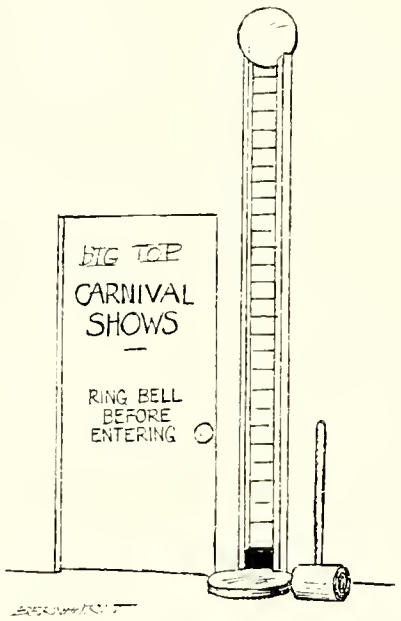
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The Joke Page

Discovering her son smearing himself with mud, an angry mother marched the boy inside. *"Oh, be quiet!"* she snapped, *"Don't you know you're still going to be spanked?"*

"Spanked!" cried the boy in relief. *"I thought you were going to wash me!"*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana



Jim: *"Did you hear about the hen that swallowed a Yo-Yo?"*

Tim: *"No, what happened?"*

Jim: *"She laid the same egg three times!"*

Christi Wilkes
Violet Hill, Arkansas

My son-in-law, a senior resident at a midwestern hospital, had completed a routine physical exam on a six-year-old when the mother mentioned her concern about her son's craving for junk food. The doctor pondered on how he might get the child to see the light about his poor diet. *"So,"* he asked, *"what do you want to be when you grow up?"*

"I want to be a doctor," said the boy. *"I've got him now"* thought my son-in-law. *"And what would you say to a boy whose mother complained about his eating so much junk food?"*

Without hesitation, the youngster replied, *"I ate junk food when I was a kid and look at me now!"*

Mark Mara
Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Father: *"How do you like your teacher?"*

Danny: *"I don't like her at all."*

Father: *"And why not?"*

Danny: *"She told me to sit up front for the present—and then she didn't give me anything."*

Sonny Holbrook
Flat Gap, Kentucky

One day a woman walked into a bank and said, *"I would like to start a joint account."* The teller asked, *"Who with, your husband?"*

"Gracious no!" the woman replied, *"a person with some money."*

Shane Holcombe
Waterloo, Alabama

A math teacher used calculus to solve a lengthy and difficult problem on the blackboard. When the answer turned out to be zero, he asked the class if anyone knew what this indicated.

"It seems to me," one student answered, *"that you did all that figuring for nothing."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Q: What's a rabbit with fleas?
A: Bugs Bunny.

Barbara Shull
Odessa, Missouri

A man rushed into the emergency room of a hospital. *"Help me!"* cried the man. *"A dog just took a bite out of my leg.*

"Did you put anything on it?" asked the doctor.

"No," shouted the man, *"he liked it just the way it was."*

Gale Wilson
Elgin, Oregon

Q: How do you make the number 7 even?
A: Drop the "S."

Lyle Larsen
Huntington, Utah

A geography teacher asked Charlie the Greenhand *"Where's Moscow?"*

Charlie: *"In the barn next to Pa's."*

Gary Williams
Temple, Oklahoma

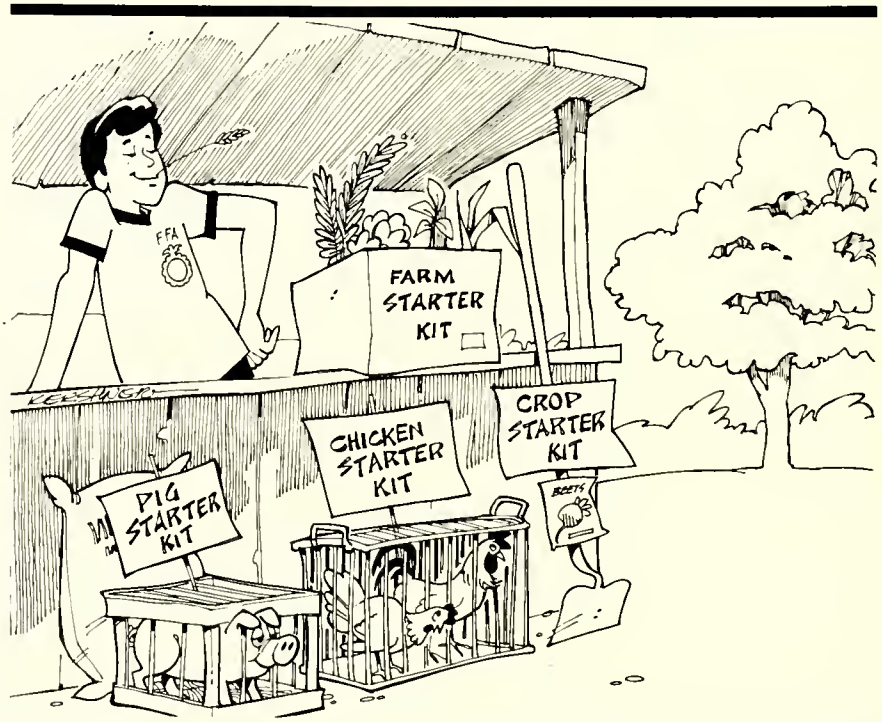
Q: Who mows the grass on Walton's mountain?
A: Lawn Boy.

Jim Rodenburg
Sioux City, Iowa

Q: Why do so few animals play cards in the jungle?
A: Because there are too many cheetahs there.

Mark Trefry
Wenatchee, Washington

Charlie, the Greenhand



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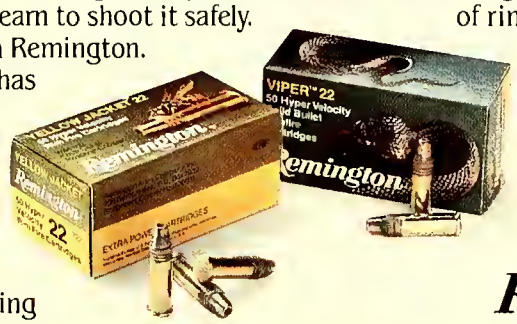
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